



Plastic People
back memories in
Czech Republic

PRAGUE (AP) — Plastic People of the Republic, whose 1970s-era music and political activism helped to spark the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, are being honored in the Czech Republic.

Fourteen years after the end of the Cold War, the Czech Republic is honoring the Plastic People of the Republic, a group of musicians and activists who were persecuted by the communist regime in the 1970s.

British Legion
rattles its
bayonets at Queen
Remembrance
March

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Bomb blast outside Manama wounds Bahraini
MANAMA (R) — A bomb explosion in a Manama suburb wounded a Bahraini man and damaged a car, a government official said on Sunday. The bomb, planted under a car, went off on Friday near the international exhibition centre outside the Bahraini capital Manama. "It has damaged the car and shrapnel from the blast injured a passenger who was in another car," the official told Reuters. Newspapers said the man suffered injuries to his right leg and lost his right thumb. On Thursday a fire in a four-storey building in Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial and banking hub, caused extensive damage and destroyed at least seven new cars. More than 30 people have been killed since sporadic protests, bombings and arson attacks by the island's majority Shiite Muslim community erupted in December 1994 to press for political and economic reforms by the Sunni-led government.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراية

Civilian wounded in guerrilla attack on Israeli patrol
MARJAYOUN (AP) — Lebanese guerrillas fired rockets and machine guns at an Israeli army patrol in southern Lebanon Sunday, and Israeli-allied militiamen said a woman passing by was wounded in the attack. Hizbollah is fighting to dislodge Israeli forces from the south, said in a statement that its guerrillas opened fire on the patrol near the village of Rihaan, 10 kilometres north-west of Marjayoun. The Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said a woman was wounded in Rihaan as guerrilla mortars and rockets crashed into the village. On Saturday, a Lebanese farmer and a shepherd were wounded by Israeli shelling. Hizbollah guerrillas killed two Israeli-allied SLA militiamen on Friday in a roadside bombing, and Israel retaliated with two air raids on suspected Hizbollah bases.

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Price: Jordan 200 fils



By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamists are an integral component of the state and their boycott of tomorrow's elections does not pre-judge their future role in politics and decision-making, the official spokesperson for the elections, Mazen Armouti, said Sunday. "We still consider them part of the system, the state, and the regime," Dr. Armouti asserted. "The Islamic Action Front (IAF) and its mother organisation, the Muslim Brotherhood, have always been... a pivotal force for stability and moderation, as well as a safety valve for the country," Dr. Armouti told an international press conference at the Prime Ministry. Three months after the crisis that resulted in the Muslim Brotherhood's unprecedented decision to abandon mainstream politics and boycott the polls, the official spokesperson for the elections said dialogue with the Islamists has not stopped.

Boycotting Brotherhood still part of regime, says Armouti

"Dialogue with the IAF is going on, and will go on even after the elections, because the Jordanian system has always maintained open channels of communications with all forces of society, even when Parliament was not in session, or when we had no Parliament at all," Dr. Armouti said, referring to the 1967-1989 period. He stressed that His Majesty King Hussein, HRH Crown Prince Hassan, and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, as well as cabinet members have repeatedly and "clearly expressed deep disappointment" at the [Islamists'] boycott decision. Addressing a public rally on Oct. 1 in the industrial town of Zarqa, King Hussein praised the moderate Muslim Brotherhood for "adopt[ing] honourable stands under very difficult circumstances and ris[ing] to the occasion whenever the country was exposed to danger." "We also appreciate that the IAF did not go as far as calling on the people to boycott, which is a very positive sign," Dr. Armouti told reporters. "In other words, they [the Islamists] are boycotting the first component of elections, which is candidates nomination, but they are not boycotting the voting itself," the spokesperson added. Eight left-leaning opposition parties, the Union of the Professional Associations, and two groups of independents under the leadership of head of the Jordanian Engineers Association Leith Stubeit and former Prime Ministers Taher Masri and Ahmad Obaidat, also joined the Islamists in their boycott of the elections. The boycotting groups cited the 1994 peace treaty with Israel, normalisation with the Jewish state, as well as recent temporary laws that they consider curbing public freedoms, as the reasons behind their decision. A number of former and current IAF members, however, are contesting the elections as independents, defying their party's directive. The Muslim Brotherhood last month expelled two



Islamist independent candidate, Mohammed Rifa'at, holds the Holy Koran between his supporters during an election campaign rally at Baqa'a, Sunday. Sheikh Rifa'at, is one of the 32 Islamist candidates who the government says are defying a boycott by the main Islamist party, the Islamic Action Front (Reuters photo)

Iraq turns back three U.S. arms inspectors

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Sunday sent back three American members of a United Nations team of experts arriving in Iraq to resume arms inspections. "Iraq today turned away in a polite way three Americans who were with a U.N. arms inspection team at Al Habbaniya Airport arriving from Bahrain," a diplomat in Baghdad said. "As soon as the plane landed they [Americans] were asked to return back to Bahrain," the diplomat said, adding that the three inspectors went straight back. Habbaniya Airport is about 100 kilometres northwest of Baghdad. The diplomat said a fourth American inspector being rotated out of Iraq left Sunday. "The office of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in Baghdad, which is in charge of the arms inspections, had no comment." The Iraqi leadership said Wednesday it would no longer cooperate with Americans in U.N. inspection teams checking Iraq's compliance with Gulf war resolutions. It said the 10 Americans among 100 U.N. inspectors had a week to leave Iraq. Iraq's ban on U.S. weapons experts was in response to a resolution adopted by the Security Council last month threatening a ban on travel abroad by Iraqi officials who interfere with the work of U.N. inspectors. Richard Butler, the head of the U.N. arms inspectors, said after briefing the Security Council Friday that he would order his experts to resume inspections Monday, including the Americans. He had halted the inspections after Iraq announced the ban. Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan said Saturday Iraq would not allow American weapons inspections on its territory until Iraq got clear indications on when the sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait would be lifted. The United States has not ruled out military action against Iraq if it did not drop its ban on U.S. inspectors. Iraq said Sunday the "aggressive" stance of the United States and the U.N. Security Council had pushed it to ban Americans from taking part in U.N. arms inspections. "The aggressive and unjust American stand toward Iraq as well as that of the Security Council has pushed it to take its current decision," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said in a front-page editorial. "The U.N. ought to treat Iraq with justice and review its stand toward the suffering of Iraqis," Al Thawra said. Four Iraqis, protesting against what they called the threatened use of force by the United States, ended a hunger strike outside the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross Sunday. "They ended their hunger strike today after they delivered a memorandum protesting against... [what they called] American aggression against Iraq," Manuel Bassler, head of the ICRC in Baghdad, told Reuters. Mr. Bassler said he could do nothing because the ICRC is "a humanitarian... and not political organisation." The official Al Qadisiya newspaper said: "American oppression against the people of Iraq cannot be halted without a firm Iraqi will supported with strong action." Several thousand Iraqis demonstrated at the headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Baghdad Saturday, raising banners and portraits of President Saddam Hussein and shouting anti-American slogans. They set fire to both the U.S. and Israeli flags in front of the building before they dispersed. "Iraq is the United States' foe... and that has been frequently announced by American officials," Al Thawra said.



By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AJLOUN — Al Rasheed Restaurant in this conservative, sleepy northern town, packs a crowd most mornings, but is certainly still men's exclusive turf. Yet last Saturday, the particular assembly of men gathered here expressed their desire to see, for the first time, a

First woman to run for Parliament in Ajloun competes against four men from her clan

woman representing them in the 13th Parliament. Ajloun, for the first time in history is fielding its first woman candidate. Nawal Momani from the Momani clan, one of the most dominant in the Ajloun area. At 43 and a mother of three, Ms. Momani is a retired Army nurse with the rank of major, whose 16 year service included assignments in the Royal Medical Services at King Hussein Medical Centre and the Spinal Cord Injuries Unit at Farah Rehabilitation Centre. In her campaign material, she describes herself as the candidate for women, youth and the silent majority. Al Rasheed patrons don't represent an aberration in Ajloun's political thinking, says Mohammad Amin Smadi, a waiter in the fast food joint. There are more like them. "We've had parliaments full of men," says Mr. Smadi. "And they've proven themselves ineffective. People believe that women can discuss the tough issues frankly, they listen to people, they act for a greater good. It's known. Men don't have this capability. Or if they do, they don't use it. I guess." But words aren't votes, and in spite of the Kingdom's changing social values, the men admit that they "probably" will not cast their votes in support of Ms. Momani, not because she isn't capable, they say, but because they fear "wasting" votes on a candidate that they feel will not gain much support in this traditional governorate, especially when the candidate is a woman vying for a seat among four other male members of her clan. Their predictions, however, do not spell certain defeat for Ms. Momani, who claims a source close to the campaign, could gain as many as 1,500 votes. Nur do her forecasts indicate a clear and concise victor among male candidates. Their predictions also should not be mistaken for political enthusiasm. Residents of Ajloun appeared generally

Levy off to U.S., Arafat not optimistic on talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An upbeat Foreign Minister David Levy left Sunday for high-level Israeli-Palestinian talks in the United States as Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said he did not expect any progress at the negotiations. Mr. Levy, in an interview with the newspaper Yediot Ahronot published Sunday, said he had received a "green light" to discuss the key questions of Jewish settlement and Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank at the talks. "I would not be going to these negotiations without having received the green light allowing me to take very important decisions," said Mr. Levy, who is to meet Palestinian National Authority (PNA) negotiator Mahmoud Abbas Monday in Rosslyn, Virginia. The Israeli foreign minister said Jewish settlement and a military pullback from the West Bank "were an integral part of the questions which will be raised with the Palestinian negotiators and I have received a mandate to discuss them." Mr. Levy said he was "confident it will be possible this time to make progress with the active cooperation of the Palestinians. Our negotiating partners will find that we are ready to compromise if they show the required flexibility." President Arafat, however, said he saw "no chance of success" for the talks to be held over several days in Rosslyn, near Washington, and dismissed Mr. Levy's claims that he had a strong mandate from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "I am not optimistic," President Arafat told the newspaper Maariv. "Levy is going to Washington but he has no decision-making power. He can negotiate as much as he wants but the cabinet has not given him a mandate to propose solutions." "We received an invitation from [U.S. Secretary of State] Madeleine Albright to negotiate in Washington and our delegation accepted it even if these talks have no chance of success," the Palestinian president said. Palestinian leader Arafat again rejected an Israeli offer to open immediate talks on thorny "final status" questions such as the status of Jerusalem, the return of refugees and the issue of Palestinian statehood. "We do not agree on this plan. Israel must first meet its commitments and carry out the second and third military withdrawals from the West Bank," he said. "Only after this can we begin negotiations on a final settlement." Under the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian accords, Israel should have started pulling out of rural areas of the West Bank in three phases, which were due to have been completed by mid-1998. Mr. Netanyahu has said, however, that he would not implement the withdrawals, which would hand new West Bank territory over to Palestinian control, unless the PNA steps up a crackdown against Islamists. At the moment, the PNA only controls the larger towns of the West Bank, or three per cent of the territory, and about 65 per cent of the land area of the Gaza Strip. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said



By Ghalia Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Some of the 16 candidates competing for the three Muslim seats in the southern governorate of Ma'an are engaged in a last-minute effort to convince "weak contestants" to withdraw from the race, thus bolstering their chances to capture a seat in the 13th Parliament. In the district of Ma'an, which includes the city of Ma'an, Wadi Mousa, Shobak and Taybeh, it is very difficult to say who are

Ma'an candidates count on last-minute withdrawals to win tomorrow's elections

the favourites since so many candidates are competing for very little votes leading to splits in the tribes of each town. "If the situation remains as it is, and if none of the candidates from Wadi Mousa and Shobak withdraw from the elections, the three seats allocated to this district will go to candidates from the city of Ma'an," where the number of voters is more than half of the total number of the district, and tribes are more coherent in their support for their candidates, an observer from Ma'an said Sunday. In Wadi Mousa, where five candidates are vying for the 6,900 registered votes, two contestants are expected to announce last-minute withdrawals in favour of their kinfolks, observers say. Nominees in Wadi Mousa are: Ahmad Hasanat, Ghazi Tweissi, Majed Abu Faraj, Oklah Khleifat and Ahmad Alaya. Observers say it is difficult to predict who would win the majority of votes in Wadi Mousa. They say that at least two contestants of the five have to withdraw from the race if the city is to secure a seat in the 13th Parliament. Ahmad Hasanat, a former senior Foreign Ministry official, told the Jordan Times on Sunday that he was confident to obtain more than 2,800 votes from his tribe and other supporters, and thus represent Wadi Mousa in the upcoming Parliament. But other candidates claim similar support. In Shobak, where Abdullah Hababbeh, Mohammad Ghanmween and Ramadan Rawashdeh are seeking to win the support of 5,815 registered voters, it is unlikely that any of the contestants will capture one of the three seats allocated to Ma'an, according to observers. Observers, who do not expect any of the three nominees to withdraw from the race, say that Abdullah Hababbeh is unlikely to repeat the success of his cousin Taha Hababbeh who won with 3,137 votes in 1993. "People in Shobak want to give a different tribe the chance to represent them in Parliament this time," one observer from Shobak told the Jordan Times Sunday. In Ma'an city, where 14,813 voters are registered, observers believe that candidates who represent strong clans, are front-runners because of the strong tribal affiliations that dominate the scene there. Ahmad Abu Oklah of the 3,150-vote-strong Al Khat-tab tribe, Hisham Sharari of the same tribe, Nayef Hilalat of the 2,500-vote-strong Al Karasheeh tribe, and Walid Awajan of the



By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Parliament Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour is facing a tough competition in the Nov. 4 elections not only from the trib-

Former House Speaker Srour in tough competition with brother for north bedouins' seat

al candidates in the Northern Bedouin constituency but also from his own brother. Mr. Srour, who campaigns from his headquarters Om Jmal in the northern badia, has to defeat his brother Abdullah, an engineer, to win one of the two seats allocated for this district. The former minister, who runs for election for the third time, told the Jordan Times that the votes of the Al Masaeed tribe are the major factor that will decide the two winners in the district that extends from Mafraq to the Syrian border. "In addition to this factor the reputation of the candidate and what he had done to his people here is another factor in deciding who would win," the former speaker said in a telephone interview. Mr. Srour said that the major issues in his election programme this year are "more educational facilities, health and other services" for this region. Observers in this constituency say that the nomination of the two Srour brothers might split the votes of their own clan Al Masaeed. In the 1993 election, Nawaf Qadi from the powerful Bani Khaled clan, won one of the two seats in the district alongside Mr. Srour. Mr. Qadi died in 1996 and his brother Trad Qadi, who this year did not nominate himself, won the by-elections to replace him that year. Bani Khaled clan has five candidates "which means that the votes will be split among them, after the clan failed to agree on one candidate," one observer said. Mr. Srour's Al Masaeed is the second largest clan after Bani Khaled. The number of the candidates in this constituency stood at 14 after one candidate, Mohammad Salem Otheimat withdrew from the contest on Sunday. Naji Mahmoud, the official in charge of the North Bedouin constituency at the Ministry of Interior, said that 39,746, or 95 per cent of the eligible voters, in the region collected their voting cards. Mr. Mahmoud told the Jordan Times that the candidates' programmes mainly "focus on services such as electricity, agriculture, communication, education and other services." The election official added that the Northern Bedouin constituency covers the districts of Sama Sarhan, Deir Al Kahaf, north badia, Sahha, Rweished near the Iraqi border and Om Jmal. The total population of the region is at 68,914, official figures indicated. The major clans in this constituency are: Bani Khaled, Masa'eed, Shurafat, Zbaid, Sardiya, Al Aissa, Otheimat and Al Sarban. The candidates list includes: Swailim Shlash Safian, lawyer, Mohammad Sa'oud Qadi, a retired army officer, Fayez Fadel Madi, former employee at the Al Bayt University in Mafraq, Daifallah Farhan Keiber, tribal leader, Odeh Ahmad Qadi, retired army officer, Zayed Arab Own, tribal leader, Mohammad Awad Bruik, retired teacher, Adoub Falah Al Edein, retired Mafraq municipal employee, Mohammad Khalaf Al Khaldi, farmer, Hmoud Samir Tawabeish, engineer, Sa'ad Hayel Srour, former Parliament speaker, Abdullah Hayel Srour, engineer, and Mohammad Bakheet Orei'er.

Algerian president says terrorism is being defeated

ALGIERS (AFP) — President Liamine Zoualou assured Algerians marking the anniversary Saturday of the beginning of the war of independence that the government was winning its fight against terrorism.

Despite a recent upsurge in attacks blamed on Islamists, Mr. Zoualou insisted the "barbaric terrorism" would be "eradicated" and said the security situation had improved since 1994.

His comments came in an address to the nation for the 43rd anniversary of the start of Algeria's war of independence from France, and came a few hours before he left for a two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Much of his speech was devoted to the security situation, but he also had time to reject charges from political allies and foes alike that last week's local elections had

been rigged.

"Each time it is suffocated, terrorism steps up its cruelty," Mr. Zoualou said, denouncing the "cruel carnage" of recent weeks that has left some 500 dead.

Three years ago, he said, Algeria "was faced with a large-scale terrorist aggression commanded by elements within the country and abroad."

"Many people abroad were expecting to see the country crumble," he added, but "the determination of the Algerian people stood up to and defeated the barbaric terrorism."

The recent massacres in Rais, Beni Messous and Bentata, near Algiers, are only the latest upsurge in an ugly conflict which has left some 60,000 people dead since 1992 when the government annulled elections, the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Mr. Zoualou has rejected any talks with the FIS, whose armed wing has observed a ceasefire since Oct. 1 in hopes of a negotiated solution.

President Zoualou said the mobilisation of ordinary civilians in self-defence groups and local security units would accelerate terrorism's final defeat.

The government has armed between 100,000 and 200,000 people in such groups in an effort to tackle the militants, units which complement an army of some 130,000 troops.

"Terrorism will be eradicated in Algeria through all the legal means the republic has at its disposal," the Algerian president added.

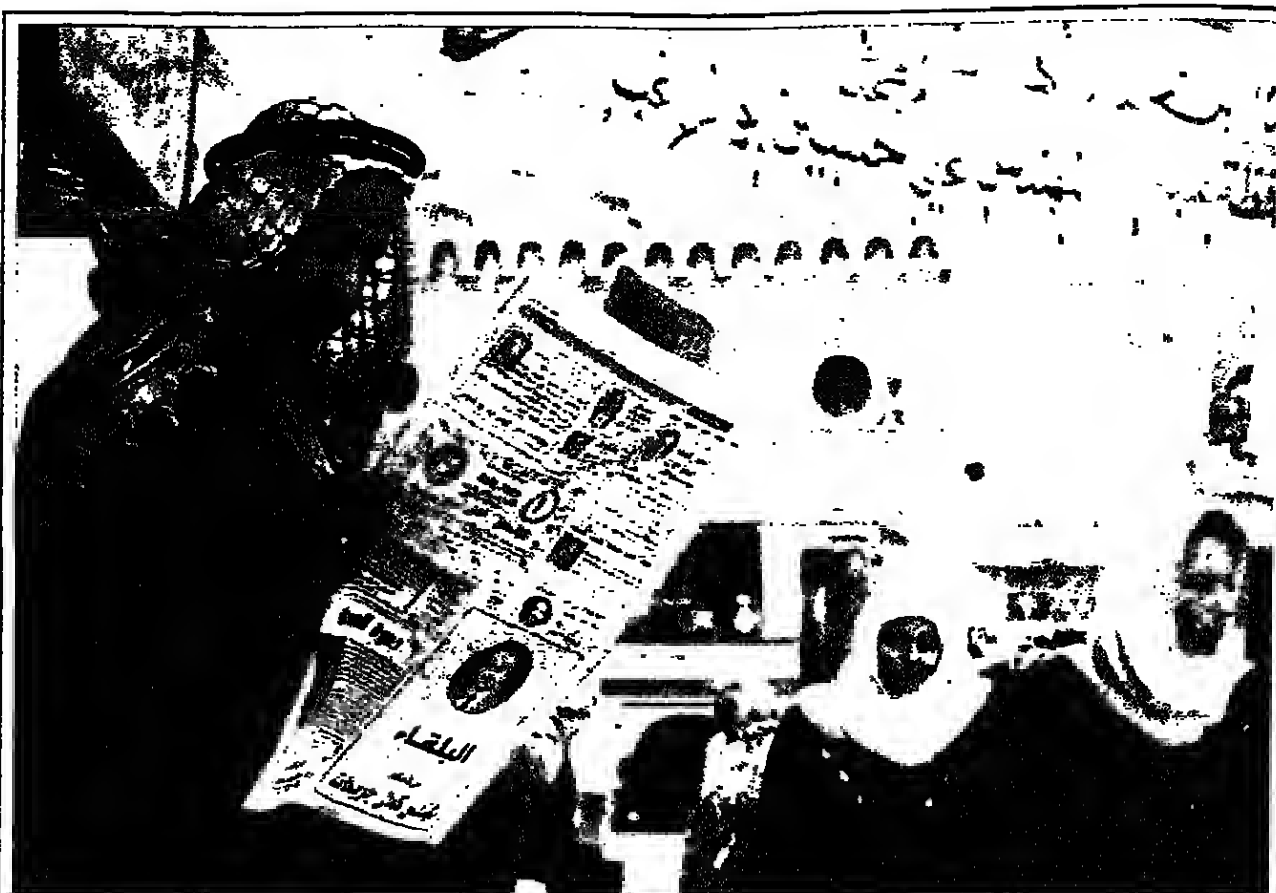
Most observers believe the security forces have gained the upper hand over the extremists, but that the army will face low or medium-level terrorism for some time to come, despite

huge military spending, estimated at around two billion dollars a year for the defence ministry alone.

Many of the remaining militants belong to the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most hardcore of the groups fighting the government, whose operations are generally in north-west and northern central Algeria, where whole villages have been regularly and indiscriminately decimated.

Defence Minister General Mohammed Lamari on Wednesday also insisted Algeria had passed from a situation "where the very existence of the nation is threatened" to one where terrorists were reduced to attacking civilians.

Turning to Thursday's major protest march in Algiers, Mr. Zoualou said only that the judiciary should settle dispute over last week's local elections.



ELECTION FEVER: A man wearing the keffiyeh, a traditional headscarf, reads a newspaper full of news about the upcoming parliamentary election on Sunday in Amman. Jordanians will vote Tuesday to elect 80 deputies among more than 500 candidates including 17 women (AFP photo)

Al Mashreq, media newspaper, hits newsstands with elections 'special'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Mashreq Al Iam, a monthly Arabic newspaper devoted to covering press and media issues in Jordan and the Arab World, appears on newsstands today in a special issue which focuses on the media's handling of the election campaign and on the debate around the amendments introduced in May to the 1993 Press and Publications Law.

The November issue of the newspaper, which is published by the newly-established Arab Media Institute, carries numerous articles by Jordanian, Arab and international writers who have closely observed the campaign and studied the impact of the amendments on the

press and democratisation process in the Kingdom.

Several papers, which were presented at a seminar held late last month on freedom of the press in Jordan are reprinted in Al Mashreq Al Iam (whose publisher co-organised the conference with the London-based Article 19 organisation), along with summaries and analyses of the discussions that took place.

The newspaper is the first of its kind publication in the Arab World. "It aims at not only identifying obstacles that impede press freedom and freedom of expression in this part of the world," its editor Samir Barhoum says. "The newspaper also is the right forum for publishing material

that is collected, researched and analysed by the Institute, which is monitoring development of the media and press freedom in the Arab World."

"Jordanian and Arab journalists have been facing serious challenges in practising their profession," says Mr. Barhoum. "But they are just beginning the long and arduous process of researching and documenting their evolving role in their societies, especially those which have been witnessing democratic change, such as Jordan's," he added. "What we (as Jordanian journalists) are trying to do, through writing such a newspaper as Al Mashreq is to strengthen this process, by talking among ourselves first and then proceeding to understand, and put in proper context, our interaction with all groups in society, including the government which has so far managed to regulate and draw various, sometimes contradictory, frameworks for governing our own work. It is time we took initiative to do that ourselves."

"Although the election campaign has been somewhat dull and parochial this time around," Mr. Barhoum says, "the fact remains that, by holding them, Jordan intends to pursue its democratic course."

"This is where and when a free and fair press, and the media in general, can play an active role in strengthening democratic practices," he continues. "What we have done in Al Mashreq this time is tell the story of the elections with the media as indeed it is, despite the fact that the amendments to the Press and Publications Law might have been aimed at restricting us from doing just that."

Tofaili bans government officials from Baalbek

BAALBEK (AFP) — The leader of Hizbollah on Sunday banned Lebanese government officials from the Baalbek region and men under his command turned back a legislator trying to reach the area.

Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili, the former leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah who started a civil disobedience movement in May called the Revolt of the Hungry, said government ministers, MPs, and top officials will be banned from

Baalbek until the movement's demands for more social benefits are met.

He also announced street protests for Dec. 14-15.

Lebanese security sources said supporters of Mr. Tofaili barred officials from entering the eastern area of Baalbek Sunday on his orders.

About 10 unarmed men blocked the convoy of MP Sami Khatib, a former interior minister, at a main road leading to the city in eastern

Lebanon, the security sources said.

Mr. Khatib, who was blocked near Riyak, 18 kilometres from Baalbek, was forced to turn back, they said.

Two other deputies, Mohammad Ali Al Mais and Antoine Hitti, were also stopped at checkpoints, but managed to cross them and reach Baalbek.

The driver of Mr. Al Mais told Agence France Presse that "one of the four men raised a

gun against us, but did not shoot. We immediately drove off and speedily reached Baalbek."

Mr. Tofaili has called his Revolt of the Hungry a protest against "corruption and nepotism" within the government and public services, saying poorer parts of Lebanon, mainly in eastern Lebanon, do not receive their fair share of funds.

He has called on Lebanese people to stop paying tele-

phone and electricity bills and taxes and to build homes without permits.

Mr. Tofaili was a founding member in 1982 of Hizbollah, an Iranian-backed social organisation whose military wing is fighting a guerrilla war to evict Israeli troops from Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

While Mr. Tofaili has not held an official post in Hizbollah since 1992, he is still popular among the rank.

Iraq has stockpiled VX nerve gas agent, the Observer reports

LONDON (R) — Iraq has secret stocks of a nerve gas that in minute quantities could kill millions of people, Britain's Observer newspaper quoted U.N. weapons inspectors as saying.

A report in the Sunday newspaper quoted them as saying they were on the verge of uncovering the VX liquid nerve gas agent when President Saddam Hussein ordered the American members of the inspection team to leave the country.

"I think we were getting hot and maybe that's part of the reason why they took this decision in the last couple of days," U.N. chief weapons inspector Richard Butler was quoted as saying. "I think we are getting closer and closer."

VX is 10 times more lethal than the nerve gas sarin, causing death by

paralysis. The Observer said the Iraqis told the inspectors that they had only an experimental programme producing a few kilograms of VX.

It said the inspectors had in fact discovered that Iraq ordered 750 tonnes of the chemical precursor required to make VX and doubted Iraq's claim that most of the stock had been destroyed in allied bombing raids during the 1991 Gulf war.

"One of the nasty things about VX is that because it's liquid, it is more efficient," Tim Trevan, a former adviser to the Chairman of the U.N. Special Commission for Iraq, told the Observer.

"You can absorb it through the skin or inhale vapour. In the climate of Northwest Europe, it can hang about for a long time."

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PROGRAMME TWO

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- 14:30... The Cowboys of the Moosies
- 15:00... Gillette Sports Special
- 15:15... Riding High
- 15:30... Animal Show
- 16:00... Oliver Twist
- 16:30... Neighbours
- 17:00... French Programmes
- 19:00... News in French
- 19:15... French programme
- 19:30... News Headline
- 19:35... Comedy - Murphy Brown
- 20:00... The Health Show
- 20:30... Babylon 5
- 21:10... Highlander
- 22:00... News in English
- 22:30... Emergency Room
- 23:15... Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

- 04:31... Fajr
- 05:49... (Sunrise) Dhuha
- 11:19... Dhuhur
- 14:44... 'Asr
- 16:49... Maghreb
- 18:08... 'Isa

CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich, Tel. 810740
- Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
- St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Santa Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Scattered showers are expected with skies cloudy to partly cloudy and winds southeasterly active. On Tuesday and Wednesday a cold air mass accompanied by a depression will affect the region. Temperatures are expected to drop

and rain will fall over most regions of the Kingdom.

In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, rainy, winds southerly active, and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman... 13/23

Aqaba... 17/29

Deserts... 12/24

Jordan Valley... 19/29

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 23, Aqaba 30 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent.

Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

- AMMAN:
- Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh... 736011
- Dr. Hisham Kan'an... 790286
- Dr. Awani Hawamdeh... 832350
- Dr. Khalid Asfour... 699440
- Firas pharmacy... 661912
- Ferdows pharmacy... 778336
- Al Asema pharmacy... 637055
- Nairoukh pharmacy... 623672
- Al Salam pharmacy... 636730
- Yacoub pharmacy... 644945
- Shmeisani pharmacy... 637660
- Najib pharmacy... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Baker... 276852

Al Quds pharmacy... (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad... 985530

Khalifeh pharmacy... 985417

AMMAN:

Luzmila... 630195

Husseini Medical Centre... 813813/2

Khalidi Maternity... 642381/6

Akileh Maternity... 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity... 642362

Malhas, J. Amman... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani... 607071

Shmeisani Hospital... 669131

University Hospital... 843845

Al-Muasher Hospital... 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali... 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen... 777101/3

Al-Bashir... 775111/26

Army, Marka... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital... 602240/50

Amal Hospital... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery... 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital... (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Luzmila... 630195

Husseini Medical Centre... 813813/2

Khalidi Maternity... 642381/6

Akileh Maternity... 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity... 642362

Malhas, J. Amman... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani... 607071

Shmeisani Hospital... 669131

University Hospital... 843845

Al-Muasher Hospital... 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali... 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen... 777101/3

Al-Bashir... 775111/26

Army, Marka... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital... 602240/50

Amal Hospital... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery... 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital... (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:15... Sanaa (RJ)

08:25... Damascus (RJ)

08:35... Jeddah (RJ)

09:30... New Delhi (RJ)

09:50... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:05... Beirut (RJ)

16:20... Cairo (RJ)

16:25... London (RJ)

16:45... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:05... Kuwait (RJ)

18:35... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

19:00... Bangkok (RJ)

20:15... Frankfurt (RJ)

21:45... Kuala Lumpur, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

23:15... Jakarta, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights

04:15... London (BA)

09:15... Cairo (MS)

09:30... Al 'Arish (PF)

11:45... Khartoum (SD)

13:45... Bahrain (GF)

14:30... Doha (QR)

15:05... Vienna (OS)

16:00... Dubai (EK)

18:00... Istanbul (SD)

20:00... Tel Aviv (LY)

21:10... Paris, Damascus (AF)

22:30... Athens (OA)

01:25... Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW)

06:05... Tel Aviv (RW)

07:25... Amman (QAIA) (RW)

07:15... Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

09:50... Aqaba (RW)

11:10... Amman (QAIA) (RW)

12:00... Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

21:20... Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

22:50... Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:20... Beirut (RJ)

10:10... Frankfurt (RJ)

11:00... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

12:05... Kuwait (RJ)

12:15... London (RJ)

12:30... Cairo (RJ)

Queen honours winners of children's creative programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ninety-six children who won the 1997 Children's Creative Production Competition, organised by Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in cooperation with Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), received prizes Sunday from Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Royal Cultural Centre, according to a press release Sunday.

The competition featured the work of 1,500 children, between the ages of six and 16, in the fields of poetry, literature, drama, drawing, handicrafts, and photography. Queen Noor, who is the annual patron of the competition, praised the children's innovative creations and emphasised the importance of expanding the support and participation of the private sector in national children's projects, according to the statement.

In his speech, Senator Abdul Majeed Shoman said this "ninth annual competition aims to uncover the creative talents of children, develop their national and patriotic civic sense, improve their Arabic language skills, and enhance their community service spirit," the announcement continued.

Sima Bahous, a representative from the NHF, emphasised the importance of the Arab Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ongoing preparations



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday awards a prize to a high achiever in the 1997 Children's Creative Production Competition, an annual event that includes works in several artistic fields (Petra photo)

for the Children's Act, both of which have "highlighted the vital role of creative self-expression in child development," the press release read.

UNICEF representative Aynan Abu Lahan noted that the "seeds of creativity, whether in science, literature, or art, do not grow and develop except in an environment that recognises their presence, fulfills their needs, and nurtures them with care." Leila Ibrahim Salamah, who gave a speech on behalf of the winners, said this com-

petition brought together children "from all the Kingdoms' governorates to celebrate our creations in different fields," and added that "such a gathering would not have come about without the annual patronage of Queen Noor, who is pioneer of social and human work in Jordan," the statement continued.

The Creative Production Competition was established in 1989 by the Shoman Foundation and the NHF, which were subsequently joined by

UNICEF in 1991. The competition aims to "develop children's patriotism and national belonging, refine their literary skills as well as reveal, encourage and promote their artistic talents and abilities," the announcement read.

Queen Noor was received by Senator Shoman, the Khalid Shoman family, Shoman Foundation General Director Ibrahim Izzeddin, and members of the NHF executive committee, the statement concluded.

Crown Prince calls for strengthening Jordanian-Chinese cultural relations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called for further efforts to promote interaction between the Arab and Chinese cultures through institutionalised and effective channels.

At a meeting with visiting Chinese Minister of Culture Lio Chiong, the Crown Prince said the Arab and Chinese cultures have contributed a great deal to world civilisation.

The decision by the Arab Thought Forum to hold its meetings in China next year aims at transcending the bilateral relationship and presenting a more positive and comprehensive image about Arab culture, he said.

At the meeting, the Crown Prince referred to the U.N. celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and said

there is need to prevent discussions at the U.N. from being limited to civil rights at the expense of religious, economic, and political rights.

Mr. Chiong stressed his country's desire to promote Jordanian-Chinese relations and expressed appreciation for Jordan's efforts to establish a just and durable peace in the region.

Mr. Chiong conveyed an invitation to the Crown Prince from the Chinese president to visit China. Prince Hassan accepted the invitation and expressed hope to make the visit soon.

The meeting was also attended by Minister of Culture and Youth Qasem Abu Ein.

During a subsequent meeting with senate speaker Zeid Rifai, Mr. Chiong said China hopes that the two countries will

exchange visits by officials and private sector representatives to discuss ways for further bolstering cultural relations.

Mr. Rifai echoed the Chinese minister's views, calling for promoting bilateral ties.

He thanked China for supporting the drive for the attainment of a comprehensive, just peace in the Middle East and the Arab Nation's just causes, particularly the Palestine question.

Cultural relations, he said, contribute to better understanding between Jordan and China and pave the way for joint economic ventures.

The two sides reviewed a draft executive programme for the implementation of a cultural agreement that covers collaboration in culture, youth, education, and social development.

Several senate members, as well as the Chinese chargé d'affaires, attended the meeting.

Also Sunday, Mr. Chiong held formal talks with his Jordanian counterpart Dr. Abu Ein, stressing that the Chinese government is keen on stimulating national cultural activities with Arab and other friendly nations.

Dr. Abu Ein said Jordan's culture and cultural philosophy are based on Islamic principles and Arab history and patrimony, as Jordan is part of the Arab Nation.

Arab culture, he said, calls for moderation, rejects all forms of violence, and seeks to enhance comprehensive cultural development.

Health professionals set to continue strike; Kurdi issues appeal for workers to desist

AMMAN (J.T.) — While the public sector health professionals Sunday observed their work stoppage for the second consecutive day, Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi issued an appeal for their return to work, saying that it is their duty to carry out humanitarian services to the public.

The health professionals, who are employed at 22 public hospitals and 650 health centres, said they are determined to observe the strike Monday.

Dr. Kurdi said refusal to offer medical assistance to the sick, the old, and children is a serious and unforgivable crime, and he expressed his appreciation for those doctors, pharmacists, and dentists who have refused to observe the strike and have continued uninterrupted services.

Dr. Kurdi expressed hope that the health professionals would return to work so that the ministry would not have to resort to punitive measures. The minister's appeal followed His Majesty

King Hussein's statement to Jordan Television Saturday that he disapproved of the strike because it would have negative effects on the public.

Dr. Kurdi said it was not possible to meet the professionals' demand that they receive 60 per cent of a fund comprising fees paid by the public for treatment.

He stated that part of the fund should be used to cover the operational costs at the hospitals.

The health professionals said they had reached an agreement with the minis-

ter stipulating that they would be given 60 per cent of the JD793,000 fund, one of several conditions to stop the strike.

The minister offered them only 36 per cent, which prompted their renewal of the strike, according to the health professionals.

The strikers observed work stoppages Saturday and Sunday to back their demands for better pay and more favourable working conditions.

Candidates Faisal, Naffa' urge citizens to elect 'decent' candidates



By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amman Third District candidates Toujan Faisal and Emily Naffa' Saturday urged people to head to the polling stations Tuesday and elect people who would represent their aspirations in Parliament.

"This is not the time to boycott the elections. Instead, you should support at least five clean, decent candidates to reach Parliament to fight for your demands," Ms. Faisal told more than 400 people who gathered at Al Malhas Diwan in Jabal Amman and the adjacent street.

Drawing applause from the crowd with her strongly-worded and controversial speech, Ms. Faisal criticised the government's handling of the elections, which she said was geared towards creating a weak Parliament.

"Voting cards are being



Toujan Faisal (left) and Emily Naffa' speaking Saturday (Photos by Rana Hussein)



However, Ms. Naffa', who has been active in the political arena for the past 42 years, warned that it was impossible for a nation to "have democracy and at the same time have hungry people."

"The gap is widening between the rich and the poor, and I hope that we will not see the day when a wall is built to divide poor neighbourhoods from rich ones," Ms. Naffa', the Jordanian Communist Party candidate, said.

"Without providing decent living for the poor, none of us will escape the hunger revolution that could erupt because of poverty," she added.

Ms. Naffa' pointed out that there are tough challenges and threats to the Kingdom, "especially considering that Israeli Mossad penetrated our country when they attempted to murder Mr. Misha'al."

"My mission, if I reach Parliament, is to serve the people and my country by facing reality and offering alternatives and solutions to help my country from its financial and social problems," Ms. Naffa', who is competing with five other candidates for the Christian seat, said.

Ms. Naffa', who described herself as a "positive opposition candidate," echoed many of Ms. Faisal's criticisms, adding that the lack of democracy before 1989 "caused the spread of corruption that is responsible for most of Jordan's \$6.7 billion debt."

She said that the people, who are not responsible for this debt, are paying for it out of their own pockets.

Although democracy brought back political parties, there are still negative practices that are hindering its progress, such as the one-person, one-vote system and the temporary Press and Publication Law, Ms. Naffa' said.

Ms. Faisal, an outspoken opposition figure who in 1993 became the first woman to reach the 80-seat House, is competing for the Circassian seat with Nayef Moulah, a former ambassador.

Majali stresses PSD duty in elections to remain neutral, provide security



AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday called on the Public Security Department (PSD) and police officers to remain neutral during the general elections Tuesday and to treat the public

with due respect.

During a visit to PSD headquarters, where he met with Minister of Interior Nafith Rashid and PSD Director Nasouh Muhieddin, the prime minister said the PSD has a duty to provide security at polling stations, at the centres where votes will be counted, and during the transportation of ballot boxes to ensure the utmost degree of integrity in the elections.

He also urged the PSD to arrange for car parking and traffic control in order to facilitate the arrival of voters to the polling cen-

tres. Dr. Majali pointed out that negative behaviour is imprinted in the minds of citizens and often overshadows any positive elements.

He added that there are many people who would like to take advantage of any chance to poison the minds of ordinary citizens.

Dr. Majali listened to a briefing on the PSD's measures to ensure that the elections are conducted in a fair and free atmosphere.

Also Sunday, Mr. Rashid met ten ambas-

sadors representing European Union countries to explain the ministry's arrangements to ensure free and fair general elections.

The government has not extended official invitations to international organisations or observers to monitor the Nov. 4 elections, he stated.

The Ministry of Interior will cooperate fully with other ministries and concerned authorities to facilitate the mission of diplomats and journalists covering the event, he said.

Two women murdered for 'honour,' bringing this year's total to 23

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities are questioning a 39-year-old man who last week confessed to murdering his wife in Sweileh for "immoral behaviour," according to official sources.

The victim, Kamleh Hassan, 26, was found dead in her apartment on the morning of Oct. 30 after ingesting poison, according to the coroners who examined the body, an official source said.

Several hours later, the source maintained, the victim's husband, who was not identified by authorities, confessed to murdering his wife "by giving her the poison and asking her to take her own life."

"The husband told police that he had discovered that his wife was having an affair with another man. He asked her to commit suicide and provided her with the deadly poison," the source said.

According to the source,

Ms. Hassan was forced to marry her husband, and they continuously quarrelled with each other.

Meanwhile, in North Shouneh police are questioning a 17-year-old youth, who last week shot and killed his divorced sister for reasons of honour, official sources said.

Aysheh Theifallah, 44, was shot three times in the head in her house in the Karameh area by her brother Jamal, who surrendered to police shortly after the incident.

The source added that

Ms. Theifallah was killed in a crime of honour. He would not elaborate.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Sunday confirmed that a woman was killed and said they were investigating the incident.

In the month of October, six women were reportedly killed in the Kingdom in "crimes of honour."

The murders of the two women last week bring the total of women killed in honour crimes in the Kingdom this year to 23.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURES

- * "Two Great Women: Kate Chopin and Katherine Mansfield" by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.
- * "Arabs and the Challenges of the Remaining Years of the Century" by Dr. Salim Dhahir of Lebanese University, at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of wicker accessories from Wadi Rayan, handicrafts and gift items at the Jordan Rivers Designs showroom (Tel. 613081), until Nov. 23.
- * Works by Su'ad Ibrahim entitled "The Soul Rest" at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 553098), until Nov. 11.
- * Paintings by Patrice Cadennec at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 26.
- * Graphics exhibition by Abdul Wahab Abdul Mohsen at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until Nov. 5.
- * Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

Economic reporting course planned for next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Press Association, in cooperation with the International Institute of Journalism (IJJ), is holding a four-day course in December for the development of the press corps' economic reporting skills.

The motivation for the course is due to a recent visit made by members of the IJJ, when they met with senior economic journalists and felt a genuine need to assist in sharpening and upgrading current journalistic skills in gathering and disseminating economic news, according to Suleiman Qudah, editor-in-chief of Al Ra'i newspaper and one of the organisers of

the course.

The instructor of the course will be Professor Myer, a distinguished faculty member in the University of South Germany and a head of an economic department in a leading German newspaper.

"His academic and practical expertise will be of great use," Mr. Qudah said.

Mr. Qudah added that he hopes the skills of all participants will be further developed to benefit both the individuals taking part in the course and the society they work within.

Jordan is the second country in the region, after Lebanon, to hold this type of professional journalism course.

Jordan, Qatar discuss civil aviation services

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Qatari officials Sunday held talks in Amman designed to promote air transport operations between the two nations.

An official statement after the meeting said the two sides agreed that Qatar Airlines and Gulf Air together will make

five flights per week between Amman and Doha in exchange for permission for Royal Jordanian (RJ) to make the same number of flights between the two destinations.

At present, RJ flies four times a week between Doha and Amman, while Qatar Airlines and Gulf Air together also offer

four flights per week between the two cities.

The parties agreed to promote cooperation between the two countries' air carriers and decided that Qatar Airlines' planes will arrange for the maintenance of its planes to be done at the RJ maintenance workshop at the Queen Alia

International Airport.

The Jordanian delegation was led by Civil Aviation Authority Director Jaser Ziyad, and the Qatari side by Abdul Aziz Nueimi, director general of the Qatari Civil Aviation and Meteorological Department.

Hashimoto scores political points in Russian game

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's weekend agreement with Russian President Boris Yeltsin has given him a welcome fillip, as he has been facing a bleak political future at home.

"The accord is epoch-making and very gratifying," Kaiji Oya, mayor of Nemuro in Japan's northernmost prefecture told an emergency news conference there.

"We offer deep respect to the two leaders' efforts," the mayor said in reference to the Hashimoto-Yeltsin accord at a weekend summit in Siberia.

The city of Nemuro would have administrative supervision over the disputed Kuril Islands should they be returned to Japan.

Soviet troops occupied four of the Kuril Islands off northern Japan at the end of World War II. Japan has asked in vain since 1945 for the return of the islands and the two countries have not signed a formal peace treaty.

The "no-necktie" summit in the central Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk was held in a move to strengthen mutual trust and bilateral ties, which have been overshadowed by the long-standing territorial dispute.

"With Russian President Yeltsin expected to visit Japan around April next year, we hope from the bottom of our hearts that negotiations towards the return of the isles will make steady progress," the mayor said.

"We will make further efforts by acknowledging we are finally approaching the crucial moment after a claim of more than half a century," he said.

An official at the Nemuro municipal government noted: "I agree to a view that the premier scored points, although he had met strong criticism recently (in national politics)."

Taku Yamasaki, policy board chairman of Mr. Hashimoto's Liberal

Democratic Party, was quick to note the Siberian summit had led to "an enormous outcome."

Russians used to show "disgust" every time when Japanese took up the issue of the Kuril Islands in bilateral meetings. Mr. Yamasaki reportedly said during a trip to the southern prefecture of Saga.

Voter approval ratings for Mr. Hashimoto's cabinet have been on a dramatic decline since he appointed Koko Sato to a cabinet post in a reshuffle on Sept. 11.

Mr. Sato, convicted of taking bribes in the 1970s, resigned as chief of the Management and Coordination Agency 11 days after his appointment.

Mr. Hashimoto's economic reform plan has also displeased some conservative forces.

Support for Mr. Hashimoto's cabinet has plunged to its lowest level since he formed his first cabinet in January 1996, a poll showed in October.

The poll found the cabi-

net's approval rating dropped to 35 per cent in October from 41 per cent in September.

The Japanese media said Sunday that Japan and Russia must seize the chance to shrug off the decades-old dispute.

"Bilateral relations are facing a major turning point," Jiji said.

"The two leaders are trying to resolve the territorial issue based on their personal trust, and this would be the last chance in this century," the news agency said.

It said Mr. Yeltsin's appraisal of Mr. Hashimoto as a "competent man" had helped bring the accord at the weekend talks.

Diplomatic sources in both countries are expected to start discussing how to develop the top-level accord, it said without specifying sources.

Mr. Hashimoto may make an official visit to Russia as early as mid-1998 to enter concrete negotiations, it said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto shake hands in the residence Sosana outside Krasnoyarsk (AFP photo)

Ruling party exodus boosts opposition hopes in S. Korean vote

SEOUL (AFP) — Four more MPs quit South Korea's troubled ruling party Sunday, turning their backs on their own candidate to support party break-away Rhee In-Je, running as an independent in presidential polls next month.

The four said the ruling New Korea Party's (NKP) chances of winning the Dec. 18 election under its official candidate, former Supreme Court Judge Lee Hoi-Chang, were remote because of his waning popularity. The defections followed the departure Friday of three key lawmakers and 12 party officials backing Mr. Rhee, and highlighted the deepening crisis in the ruling party, which is now facing the prospect of a poll defeat in the face of a unified opposition.

Rhee In-Je, a 48-year-old former provincial governor and the youngest of the candidates in the running for the presidency, broke from the party in July to stand as an independent.

He has since been campaigning on a platform of "new politics for a new century," challenging voters to choose youth over age, and cashing in on a wave of nostalgia for former

President Park Chung-Hee, under whose authoritarian rule the Korean economy rose from the ashes of war.

One of the president's former protégés, Mr. Rhee is currently the second most popular candidate after veteran dissident politician Kim Dae-Jung, 73, of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP).

As the NKP turmoil deepened last month, Kim Dae-Jung — who is making his fourth bid for the presidency — managed to forge an alliance with the country's second most powerful opposition party, the conservative United Liberal Democrats (ULD).

The unlikely alliance prompted the Korea Times Sunday to note that in a half-century of politics "no opposition parties (have been) as united" in a country which has always seen "a contest between a united ruling party and a chronically divided opposition."

"Such features of ruling parties vis-à-vis the opposition appears completely reversed now," the Times said.

And this weekend Kim Dae-Jung was wooing conservatives and liberals

alike, with promises he would free government-held "prisoners of conscience," and pardon two former generals-turned-presidents, Roh Tae-Woo and Chun Doo-Hwan.

Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, who between them ruled the country from 1980 to 1993, were jailed with the blessing of President Kim Young-Sam for their roles in the 1979 coup that brought Mr. Chun to power and for the massacre of pro-democracy protesters 1980.

The pardon promise for Mr. Roh and Mr. Chun, under whom Kim Dae-Jung was jailed in the past, were not new, but the idea of pardoning "prisoners of conscience" — which the government does not admit to holding, raised eyebrows.

In the past three elections he contested Kim Dae-Jung was continually dogged by accusations of being leftist, charges he now openly challenges his political foes to revive.

But the pledge made in a late Friday TV campaign appearance, also brought a hasty clarification from the NCNP, which said their leader had not meant Communists, but "patriots."

French mercenary goes online

PARIS (AFP) — French mercenary Bob Denard is advancing into cyberspace with his own Internet site, titled Bob Denard online.

Denard himself stares moodily out from his black homepage, hands thrust into the pockets of a sober grey sportcoat, looking more like a civilian than a mercenary with 36 years of fighting under his belt.

An attempt Sunday to venture deeper into www.bobdenard.com site was met with a message in French: "Opening shortly, D-minus-three, suggesting it would be ready in a few days."

But hyperlinks on the homepage promised "Documents et Conférences," "The Museum," and "Editorial," the text of which was faxed to AFP.

"A platform from which to reach out to the planet — it's the dream of a man of the darkness," wrote Denard, better known to close friends as Gilbert Bourgaud.

Denard and two associates are accused of being accessories to the 1989 murder of former president Ahmed Abdallah of the Comoros. They deny the charges, and French courts have yet to rule on their appeal against arrest.

Denard's missions have seen him in many African war zones, as well as involvement in coup attempts in the Comoros between 1975 and 1989.

'Air pollution kills 50,000 Indians annually'

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Around 50,000 Indians die annually due to air pollution across 36 cities, an increase of 28 per cent over the past four years, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Sunday.

A total of 51,779 pollution deaths occurred in the country in 1995-96, a report by the Centre for Science and Environment was quoted as saying.

The World Bank had in 1991-92 estimated the annual number of deaths from pollution in India at around 40,000.

The latest report, quoted by PTI, said the highest number of deaths because of pollution took place in Calcutta (10,647), followed by New Delhi (9,859), Bombay (7,023), Kanpur (3,639) and Ahmedabad (3,006).

The report blamed the growing number of vehicles on Indian roads, particularly those which run on diesel, for the high level of pollution and increasing cases of respiratory and lung diseases.

Indian authorities have been struggling to combat growing pollution.

In New Delhi, which is considered one of the world's most polluted cities, the many thousands of old vehicles are blamed for growing pollution problems.

But the city's Hindu nationalist administration's bid to phase out about 80,000 old and polluting vehicles has not made any headway.

New Delhi has around three million vehicles and some 10 million people.

Truth panel discovers mass graves of anti-apartheid activists

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The South African panel probing apartheid-era crimes has found mass graves containing remains of activists slain by security forces of the then white minority regime, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The weekly City Press said it had established that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had discovered more than 30 bodies in graves in the north, near the towns of Trichard and Messina close to the border with Zimbabwe.

The victims were reportedly those of members of the armed wings of the African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress, who mounted anti-apartheid operations inside South Africa from neighbouring countries, according to the paper.

City Press also claimed that the former authorities in Lebowa and Venda — two of the "tribal homelands" in existence before their abolition as President Nelson Mandela swept to power — may have been aware of the existence of the graves.

The graves were opened during routine enquiries following evidence to the commission from eight Messina police officers, who have asked for amnesty.

Clinton attends controversial fundraiser

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (AFP) — President Bill Clinton drew wealthy contributors to a \$50,000-per couple Democratic Party retreat here as he prepared to give a boost to Democratic candidates Sunday.

Rich donors and Democratic lawmakers converged on the posh Ritz Carlton Hotel on this resort island just off the state's Atlantic Coast for what organisers billed an "autumn retreat."

Mr. Clinton's Florida visit came as Republican Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Fred Thompson ended his panel's investigation into potentially illegal fund-raising during the 1996 campaign.

Both the Justice Department and the House of Representatives are continuing their own investigations into 1996 campaign fund-raising.

The Florida fund-raiser, which the Democratic Party says will raise almost \$3 million, was touted as "open, transparent, accessible," even though organisers refused to release a list of attendees. The party has debts of nearly \$15 million.

For \$50,000, participants had the privilege of hearing a hoarse Clinton discuss politics, education and even the "fast track" trade negotiating authority he has requested from Congress.

Speaking at a dinner late Saturday, Mr. Clinton defended his record, stating that the Democrats had changed "the nature of political debate" and "moved the country to a better place."

The dinner featured singer Art Garfunkel as a special guest.

Vice-President Al Gore, also attending the retreat, attacked the rival Republicans by portraying them as indecisive. "The right hand doesn't know what the far right hand is doing," he said. "They're at each other's throats."

Mr. Clinton's three-day tour, which began Friday, was to take him to New Jersey and New York Sunday to campaign for Democratic candidates getting ready for local elections Tuesday. He is due back in Washington late Sunday.

The president, rendered almost speechless because of laryngitis, is giving a hand to Democrats Eric Vitale for Congress and Jim McGreevey for Governor of New Jersey, as well as Ruth Messenger for Mayor of New York.

The president's heavy fund-raising schedule included a speech Friday to donors at a Democratic National Committee luncheon, then a dinner in Boca Raton in Florida.

The 30 dinner guests Saturday paid \$10,000 each to be at the event. The Democratic Party was expecting to net \$600,000 that evening, said DNCC spokesman Dan Sallick.

Mr. Clinton reiterated his desire to see campaign reform efforts bear fruit next year.

"We were thwarted this year in our efforts to pass campaign reform, but I think we've got a good chance to pass it next year," he told one audience.

Democratic Party members staunchly defended the seminar, and accused Republicans of carrying out similar events. "This is probably the most open fund-raiser America has ever had," said one party leader, referring to the large and fairly unusual access given to the press for such an event.

Democratic Party Chairman Roy Romer said that he "won't play that game" with House Republicans on fund-raising activities. The Democrats need the money in part because of congressional investigations launched by Republicans on fund raising. Earlier, Mr. Clinton had said he "had nothing to apologise for," defending his fellow Democrats.

Jiang raises hopes for rehabilitation of Tiananmen Square victims

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin has raised hopes of a review of the 1989 suppression of pro-democracy protesters at Tiananmen Square after he said for the first time "mistakes" might have been made.

His comments Saturday, after a speech at Harvard University near Boston, sparked hopes of a revision of the official Chinese verdict that the protesters were "counter-revolutionaries" bent on overthrowing the state.

"It goes without saying that naturally we may have shortcomings and even make some mistakes. However, we are still working to further improve our work," Mr. Jiang said, replying to a question over Beijing's use of tanks and troops to put down the protests.

Diplomats pointed out that Mr. Jiang's choice of words was unusual.

"The word 'mistake' is new. The Chinese authorities only use that for a time well in the past, for old events that happened 15 years ago or more, and never about Tiananmen," said one.

He said however that it was strange that Mr. Jiang had chosen to make his remark in Harvard, a hotbed of dissent against the Chinese leadership.

"This shows perhaps that the pressure from the protesters has been such that Jiang Zemin has been forced to make concessions," he said.

Hundreds, even thousands of people are thought to have been killed in Beijing on June 4, 1989 when the Chinese Communist leadership sent tanks and troops in to clear Tiananmen Square following seven weeks of demonstrations.

In the following months, several thousand people throughout China were put

on trial for their support of the protests, with many sentenced to death.

"I hope that it is a sign of a revision of the official judgement on Tiananmen, but I doubt that Jiang Zemin will be the president that will rehabilitate the victims of the massacre," dissident Lin Xinshu told AFP by telephone from his home in southeastern city of Fuzhou.

"Jiang Zemin is not the person who took the main decisions in June 1989, but other leaders who did are still today at the head of the country, mainly Prime Minister Li Peng," Mr. Lin said. Taiwan officials Sunday also cautiously welcomed Mr. Jiang's hint of a

reappraisal of the crackdown.

The island's top official in formulating China policy admitted it could be a move in the right direction, but said it was not appropriate to jump to any conclusions.

"It is not clear what Mr. Jiang really said," said Chang King-Yuh, chairman of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC). "We will make a further comment once his remarks are confirmed."

Jiao Jen-ho, vice chairman of the quasi-official Straits Exchange

Foundation (SEF), said Mr. Jiang's remarks "to a certain extent, showed his confidence over the control of

power within the party." Chinese Communist leaders, Mr. Jiao reasoned, usually gave their comments on sensitive questions only when they felt the base of their power had been solidified.

Mr. Jiang was Communist Party chief in Shanghai in June 1989 but any attempt to distance himself from the massacre would be open to question, say observers, who point out that he was already a rising star in the party who began his career in Beijing.

Since the death of patriarch Deng Xiaoping in June the official line on Tiananmen has remained the same.

Mr. Jiang indeed reiterated it after his meeting with President Bill Clinton Wednesday: The Chinese government had to take "necessary measures" to safeguard the country's social stability.

Relations between the United States and China are only now improving after they were soured by the massacre.

"The little sentence at Harvard raises more questions than answers," said one diplomat. "If it's more than just a gaffe made under pressure from American demonstrators, Jiang Zemin is perhaps showing that he wants to make an impression on the Beijing hierarchy," he said.

"The Chinese president perhaps wants to stamp his mark on the party... (the Harvard comment) is maybe more a sign of strength than weakness," he added.

Mr. Jiang consolidated his leadership following Deng's death at September's five-yearly party congress, where he forced the retirement of his main rival, Qiao Shi, and ensured the adoption of new measures aimed at reforming China's massive state sector.

Jury didn't think nanny intended to kill — paper

LONDON (R) — No one on the American jury that convicted British nanny Louise Woodward of murder believed she intended to kill baby Matthew Eappen, a jury member told a British Sunday newspaper.

Juror Jodie Garber was quoted by The Mail Sunday as saying that the panel felt obliged to deliver a guilty verdict because of the judge's instructions to them.

Ms. Garber, who is in her forties, said the 12-member jury decided from the medical evidence that Ms. Woodward did cause the nine-month-old baby's fatal brain injury and it was not an accident.

But the jury believed it was

an act the 19-year-old committed in the heat of the moment, the paper said.

They were not convinced by the prosecution's argument that Ms. Woodward coldly and maliciously plotted to kill the child as an act of revenge against her strict employers.

"Nobody liked the finding we felt compelled to reach. Nobody was happy having to do this," Ms. Garber added: "She's a kid going to jail and the baby's dead, so what's going to come out of this that's good."

The Mail said the revelation that Ms. Woodward was found guilty and sentenced to life on what at best seems to have been the jury's interpretation of a legal technicality — if not

in the baby's death.

"We decided that a reasonable person would have known this, so this was the verdict we had to reach. We'd rather have had a chance to consider a manslaughter option."

"Nobody liked the finding we felt compelled to reach. Nobody was happy having to do this," Ms. Garber added: "She's a kid going to jail and the baby's dead, so what's going to come out of this that's good."

The Mail said the revelation that Ms. Woodward was found guilty and sentenced to life on what at best seems to have been the jury's interpretation of a legal technicality — if not

a misunderstanding of the definition of murder — would increase pressure on judge Hillier Zobel to throw out the second degree murder verdict. Ms. Woodward's lawyers were quoted as saying they were stunned by Ms. Garber's comments.

One of the defence team, Elaine Whitfield-Sharp, said: "I don't know where this leaves us legally at this stage, but there does appear to have been a misunderstanding." The judge has said that Tuesday he will hold a hearing to consider four options: declaring Woodward not guilty, ordering a new trial, reducing the charges or allowing the life sentence to stand.

Clinton attends controversial fundraiser

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. (AFP) — President Bill Clinton drew a wealthy crowd of donors to a \$500,000 fundraiser for the Democratic Party on the Florida coast Sunday. Clinton, 45, was the first president to appear at a Democratic fundraiser since he was elected in 1992. Clinton, who is on a campaign trail to re-election, gave a brief speech to the crowd of about 200 people. Clinton said he was proud to be back in Florida and to be with the Democratic Party. Clinton said he was proud to be back in Florida and to be with the Democratic Party. Clinton said he was proud to be back in Florida and to be with the Democratic Party.

Australians take first steps towards decision on republic

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australians take their first formal steps this week in deciding whether to break centuries-old links with the British crown but there is uncertainty over how many people will bother to vote in the nation's first postal ballot. "We are in untested waters," said Wayne Burns, national media director for the republican movement, who questions how many people will fill out and return the ballot paper which will pick delegates to a convention on declaring a republic. About 12 million people will be getting papers to vote for 76 delegates to the Constitutional Convention due to sit in February. The government has appointed a further 76 delegates to the convention which is to discuss whether Australia should become a republic, which republican model should be proposed to the electorate and the time-frame for any change. Final approval will require a referendum. "Most voters will be getting the ballot material in the first two weeks of November," said Australian Electoral Commission spokesman Brian Hallett. There are 609 candidates seeking seats on the convention from the eight states and territories, the commission said. About 430 of them were put forward by a total of 80 groups with the rest standing as individuals. Latest polls in September showed that up to 54 per cent of Australians who were questioned favoured severing the 227-year link between the British crown and this former penal colony, now a country of 18 million. Voting in Australian federal and state elections is compulsory and non-voters can be fined up to Australian dollars 50 (\$35). But voting in this first national postal ballot — which closes on Dec. 9 — is voluntary. "We will be going hell for leather for support from next week," said Wayne Burns, national media director for the leading republican movement which has put up 76 candidates. He said that the ballot papers were long and complicated and in English only and he questioned how many people will fill them out. "Our challenge will be to

get the people to fill in the ballot in the first week after receiving it. If they leave it we fear it will not get filled in," Mr. Burns told AFP. Also eager to see how the postal-ballot system works are supporters of Australian Monarchy (ACM) whose local branches have been organising meetings around the country. Gerard Wheeler, a speechwriter for Prime Minister John Howard, spiced the rather dull campaign for the convention with some advice to the ACM. In a letter written in September and disclosed in newspapers last week, he advised the monarchists to project the campaign as a "battle between the mainstream and the elites." "This battle should be represented as real Australians' greatest chance ever to vote against all the politicians, journalists, radical university students, welfare rosters (cheats), academicians, the arts community and the rich that deep down they've always hated," Mr. Wheeler wrote. A prime minister's spokesman said that Mr. Wheeler had a long association with the monarchist movement. "This had nothing to do with our office. The letter was not on prime minister's office letterhead paper and had no imprimatur from the prime minister," the spokesman told AFP. Mr. Howard, often cast as Australia's most prominent constitutional monarchist, has promised not to stand in the way of a republic if the people want it. The 76 appointed delegates include politicians and 36 people named by Mr. Howard. The Labour opposition accuses him of stacking the convention with monarchist allies. Labour Leader Kim Beazley said they included "young fogies" — young people unrepresentative of Australian youth who are usually shown by polls to be overwhelmingly republican. Mr. Howard's parliamentary secretary responsible for the convention, Nick Minchin, parried by saying a recent poll showed 52 per cent of 18-34 year olds backed a republic, 26 per cent were opposed and 22 per cent were undecided.



Prince Harry (centre) greets members of The Spice Girls Emma (left) and Victoria (right) backstage during the 'Two Nations' Concert (Reuters photo)

Prince Harry braves public stage in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Britain's Prince Harry has braved the public stage for the first time since his mother Diana's death two months ago, smiling for the cameras at a South African charity concert given by the Spice Girls pop group. Prince Charles has included Harry in two official events on his first overseas tour since his ex-wife Diana died in a Paris car crash, but Sunday will be a private day together. Saturday night Harry looked nervous and shy as screaming teenagers welcomed him and his father to the concert at a vast Johannesburg stadium. He looked like a miniature of his father, dressed in a dark suit and tie. It highlighted the difference between Charles' rigid royal style and Princess Diana's more modern approach that would often see him in jeans, like any ordinary young boy. But the 13-year-old, who was to have spent this school holiday with Diana, seemed to cheer up after a private chat with the vivacious all-female band that has become Britain's biggest pop phenomenon since the Beatles. The Spice Girls sandwiched Harry and Charles between them as they lined up for a photo call. Emma "Baby" Spice gave Harry a hug and a kiss and their sympathy for the grieving young boy was obvious. "Hello Harry, we hope you are enjoying the show," one of the singers called up later from the stage. British royal reporters, having turned their spotlight on Charles and his two sons now that Diana is gone, kept a lookout to see if Diana's brother Earl Spencer, who lives in South Africa, would come to the concert too. Mr. Spencer laid down a challenge to the royal family at Diana's funeral, saying he would make sure Harry and his brother William, 15, were brought up in the less closeted manner their mother would have wanted. Harry will tour a rural school near a natural wilderness on South Africa's Indian Ocean coast Monday before disappearing from public view and returning home to school. The press has promised not to hound him. Prince Charles said last month he was proud of how his sons had coped with the loss of the mother he divorced last year. "They have been quite remarkable and have handled an extraordinarily difficult time with enormous courage," he said. Harry flew out with Prince Charles last Wednesday but went on safari with a schoolfriend while his father, juggling his official duties and his new role as a single parent, visited the neighbouring kingdoms of Swaziland and Lesotho. The tour has been marked by signs that Prince Charles is keen to give the royal family a warmer and less distant image after Queen Elizabeth was criticised for misreading the public grief at Diana's death on Aug. 31. For the first time in a decade he has chatted to journalists travelling with him, and in speeches has stressed that even tradition has to change with the times. The Prince of Wales, 48, won praise in Britain for bringing Harry with him to South Africa. Prince Charles has never visited South Africa before but Queen Elizabeth came here two years ago to welcome the country back into the Commonwealth after apartheid-era isolation.

Mir crew prepare for spacewalk

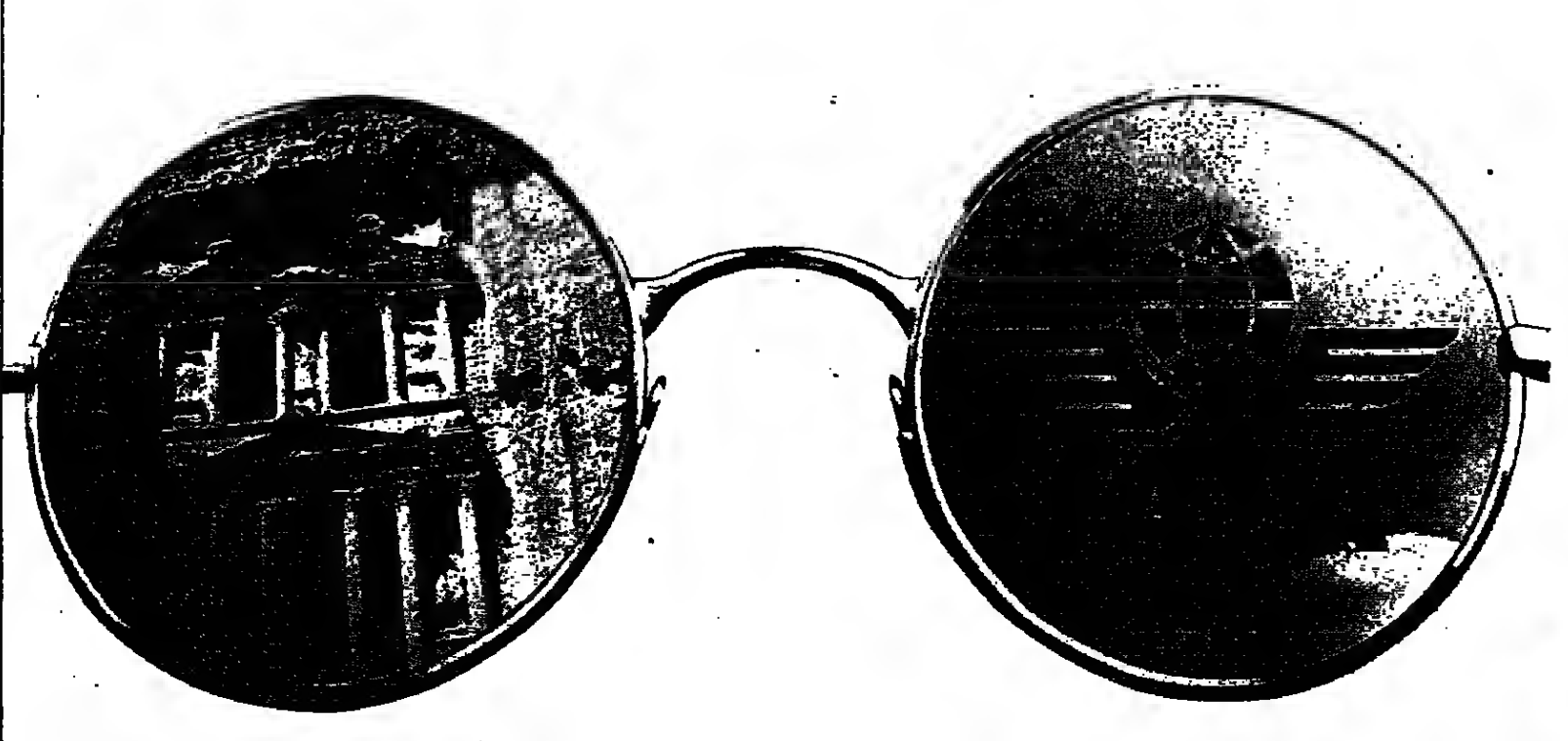
MOSCOW (R) — The Russian-American crew on the troubled Mir space station prepared Sunday for a spacewalk due to last more than five hours to dismantle a solar panel which will later be replaced with a new one. A spokesman at mission control at Korolyov, just outside Moscow, said Russians Anatoly Solovoyov and Pavel Vinogradov would step outside Mir at about 0130 GMT Monday while NASA astronaut David Wolf remains inside the space station. The cosmonauts hope to dismantle an outdated solar panel on the Kvant scientific module. It will then be replaced during another planned spacewalk Thursday. The aim is to boost energy supplies, which were reduced during a collision with a cargo vehicle in orbit on June 25. "The new solar panel will help Mir work normally until 1999," Deputy flight Director Viktor Blagov said. Solar panels are used to soak up power from the sun and provide energy for Mir, which has suffered repeated problems since the collision, its worst accident in 11 years in orbit. Vinogradov, 43, and Solovoyov, 49, spent several exhausting hours outside Mir last month linking two solar panels to a new computer guidance system. The orbital laboratory was reduced to minimal functions after the June accident, leaving little spare energy for experiments being run by Russian, U.S. and other international space agencies. Problems in the last few months have included malfunctions in the main onboard computer, the energy supply and the oxygen supply. The computer has been replaced and repair work has gradually dealt with the other problems. It will be Vinogradov's third spacewalk and Solovoyov's fourth. Wolf, 41, must wait inside to send a signal to fold up the solar panel before it is taken down and check the panel folds up properly. The cosmonauts also plan to put a plug in a hatch to prepare to install a vacuum device which will help keep the air in Mir clean. If they have time, the cosmonauts will also send into space a replica of the first Sputnik satellite launched 40 years ago.

Sri Lankan patrol ambushed, rebel arms ship sunk in separate clashes

COLOMBO (AFP) — Government troops and Tamil Tiger guerrillas clashed several times in northern Sri Lanka Sunday, leaving more than two dozen dead or wounded in firefights and a coastal sea battle, officials said Sunday. Military officials said the rebels of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed an army patrol south of Killinochchi, killing three soldiers and losing two of their own rebels. In a separate incident Sunday, the navy and air force sunk a ship apparently unloading arms for the Tamils off the Mullaitivu coast, government officials said. They said the unidentified ship was unloading arms to small rebel boats at dawn when naval patrol craft detected it and launched an attack in concert with the air force. The ship was set ablaze along with some smaller boats, but details of rebels killed or wounded were not available. It was also not known where the ship had come from, they added. They said naval gunboats also shelled the coastal areas to prevent the guerrillas from sending reinforcements to the battle scene. The ship was still sinking when last reports came in, they added. The LTTE likes to use the Mullaitivu coast to unload arms shipments from abroad because of its remote access and deep water which makes it easier for the boats to manoeuvre close to shore. The clashes came as the troops prepared for the "final battle" to secure a strategic northern highway. The LTTE has been waging a bloody separatist war in the island's Tamil-majority northeast for the past 25 years that has left more than 50,000 people dead.

Little hope to restore contact with Pathfinder

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Scientists have virtually given up on raising the space probe that landed on the red planet on July 4 but fell silent more than a month ago after sending back ground-breaking information on Mars. Every day, scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California try with decreasing hope to reestablish contact with the Pathfinder, which was last in contact with Earth for 15 minutes on Sept. 27. On Nov. 4, four months after landing on Mars amidst much hoopla on Earth, scientists plan to abandon intensive efforts to raise the probe and will instead make the efforts only once every week, or perhaps just once a month. The team has a variety of explanations for the probe's silence that include a burned out battery, cold affecting communications equipment, and a computer problem. Despite the setback, the probe's scientists maintain that the mission has been a success. Mars Pathfinder, they say, survived nearly three times longer than the 30 days that had been expected, and the microwave oven-sized Sojourner mobile robot lasted considerably longer than the seven days expected. Before succumbing, the probe transmitted hundreds of thousands of bits of information about Mars, its atmosphere, weather and winds. It sent back 16,000 photographs that have fascinated scientists. Sojourner roamed hundreds of meters across the Martian surface, proving that robot technology will be useful for future missions. Most importantly, Sojourner's instruments allowed more than 15 chemical analyses of rocks and powder on the Martian surface. By providing that information, Pathfinder and Sojourner added substantially to existing knowledge about Mars. They were especially good in providing circumstantial evidence that water might once have flowed on the now-arid planet.



Welcome to Jordan

Royal Jordanian warmly welcomes the participants of the 53rd IATA Annual General Meeting in Amman. May you have a productive and enjoyable stay

ROYAL JORDANIAN reflecting the Change.

process in the face of Netanyahu's extremist government policies.

AS of human rights are ever in the so that they are reasonable in an reaction? No wonder we keep and additional human rights ap- in. The mushrooming dimensions of late expanded to touch upon the the unexplored. The right to chie- was. Senior human rights official, Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, about this "right" and being a subject by giving examples of century that there is no precise the loss of one's native land. correctly noted that the right to been expressly recognized in these human rights instruments, but anding this being an information, the right to one's homeland is not employment of other human rights. admission one can categorically be right to a homeland would be determination itself, which is a international human right. any the right to one's country should forcibly expected from then that he right of self-determination. "most of the civil, political, cultural rights that are well recognized, man rights movement, which a main role of civil and political rights international community in Europe, I Rights (ICE).

finds expression in the prohibition of statelessness, which is stipulated in the Convention on the Rights and the of 1948. Mr. Sadi, who is a lawyer, said that the right to a homeland is a basic right that is not explicitly mentioned in the international human rights instruments, but it is a logical extension of the right to self-determination. He said that the right to a homeland is a right that is not explicitly mentioned in the international human rights instruments, but it is a logical extension of the right to self-determination. He said that the right to a homeland is a right that is not explicitly mentioned in the international human rights instruments, but it is a logical extension of the right to self-determination.

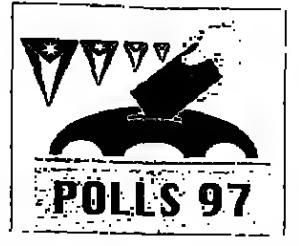
can be achieved

can be achieved

Features/News

From inside the 'beit sha'ar' — a casual observer's impressions of '97 elections campaigns

By Omar Karmi



AMMAN — Amid allegations against the government of voter registration fraud, an apparent assassination attempt against a woman candidate and an almost wholesale boycott by the opposition parties, Election '97 Jordan-style might, by the casual observer, be mistaken for a hotbed of controversy, debate and action.

This, however, is not what would have crossed the same casual observer's mind had he happened upon the Samir Kavar campaign headquarters in Fuhais in western Amman. As you drive westwards out of Amman and the buildings become scarcer, the hills greener and the roads narrower, you will see, as you pass the Amman Baccalaureate School, a large green tent situated on top of a hill. Approaching the Marquis on a dirt track, past the many cars parked there, it is, to the uninitiated, clearly the site of a festival. Or a wedding. Or maybe just a family gathering.

Entering the tent does little to dispel this impression. A large, carpeted tent, with comfortable chairs arranged all along the sides, the hundred or so men gathered there appear comfortable sipping their tea and chatting with their neighbours: there are as many heated political discussions as there are campaign-posters — none.

But this is nonetheless a campaign headquarters, and all present are there to show their support to the candidate Samir Kavar. And Samir Kavar is not someone to take elections lightly: a former minister of water and irrigation, he negotiated the Bilateral Accord on Water with Israel and is widely held to be one of the most knowledgeable about water in Jordan, probably the most valuable resource in the region. He has been there and done it, and aims to stay (being the incumbent candidate).

Not that you would know it from the atmosphere in the headquarters. The most exciting incident occurred when the man bringing the tea and coffee almost spilled some on Fasad Kavar, the candidate's cousin, and a volunteer in the campaign. "Elections in Jordan," he explained "are a social event. We sit, we chat and we go home. It makes a nice change from our normal routine."

Mr. Kavar is contesting the Balqa Governorate, which extends from Amman to Salt. Overall, eight candidates will be elected to the House of Deputies from this governorate. The campaign is very low-key. There are no mass rallies or even public speeches. The candidate goes from small assembly to small assembly, each a very casual question and answer format, and a maximum of a hundred people. The media plays little or no role, although JTV has promised each candidate 15 seconds of free air-time. Most important for the campaign is targeting the right person: if you persuade the head of the family, chances are that the rest of the family will follow suit. Volunteers work in groups in designated areas, their responsibilities being to make people aware of the campaign, delivering voting cards, and, if necessary, providing transport on election day to ensure that people vote.

Perhaps surprising, for a country in the middle of such a turbulent region, electoral issues tend to be mainly of purely local concern: unemployment, of course, is a major issue, as are services (roads, hospitals, schools etc.), but candidates are often favoured for their "wasta" potential — an ability to provide jobs or even just pay the car repair bill.

"Democracy is new in Jordan, and many have yet to see the benefits of it," according to Basma Hashem Shahwan, whose husband Mohammad Shahwan is contesting Amman's Fifth District, one of 39 candidates standing for 5 seats. "People don't believe a deputy can do anything about anything." That is why, she contends, people are more concerned with the immediate benefits a candidate may be able to bestow on them and their families, and why candidates shy away from extravagant slogans and promises.

Mohammad Shahwan's campaign is a very different affair from Samir Kavar's. Mainly family-run, the main office is the front room of the Shahwan's house in Sweifiyah, where Mrs. Shahwan, her daughter, her father, sister and two brothers, work day and night to arrange meetings, circulate posters and flyers and ensure voter registration cards are delivered. Mr. Shahwan's efforts are mainly concentrated on persuading his tribe that he is their right candidate, whereas his wife is busy recruiting the floating voters: Firstly the relatives, neighbours and friends, and then, importantly, Jordanians of Palestinian origin who, with no tribal affiliations, are there for the taking.

Where there was a clear sense of easy confidence in the Kavar campaign — perhaps due to the largely upheld belief that Kavar will retain his seat without much ado — the pressure and stress of a campaign in the balance is evident here, where the candidate is neither an incumbent with a proven political record, nor a political heavyweight in his own right. Despite this, Mrs. Shahwan agreed with Fasad Kavar's statement that voting is a social event, a sentiment supported by the atmosphere in the campaign headquarters, another large tent erected somewhere outside Madaba.

Same setting, same sociable atmosphere, but different people. Driving through a myriad of small villages scattered across the country-side gave a hint to the constituency of the Fifth District. And where Samir Kavar's tent was filled with Amman professionals, Mohammad Shahwan's was clearly filled with a representation of Jordan's rural community. Although the same tea and coffee was being passed around amidst jokes and jeers, a serious concern about the elections was discernible. Unemployment was soon identified as the largest concern, and services also came high on the list. Although most agreed that local concerns were most important — a man has to feed his family — the peace process provoked the fiercest debate: one man asked how the world could ever see peace as long as there were rich and poor countries. As the evening wore on it was apparent that the assembly was enjoying itself, and a vote of confidence for Mr. Shahwan, who skillfully worked the crowd, was vigorously vocalised. One explained that Mr. Shahwan was a serious and educated man when asked why he would vote for him; another replied: "Because he is one of us!"

The casual observer in Jordan may find it hard to detect any of the obvious symptoms of election fever. And indeed if any one word had to be chosen to describe the election campaigns so far, 'fever' would probably come somewhere near the bottom of the list. After last week's rain storm, which brought down many election banners, some people were even heard muttering under their breaths: "This, surely, is a sign from God." But once the campaign tents are located, and after the first moments' disorientation about what exactly is going on here, Jordan's fledgling democracy can be observed with all its idiosyncrasies, and perhaps the label of "social event" fits more comfortably in some places than others.

The writer is a teacher at the Amman Baccalaureate School.

AK-47 designer Kalashnikov not rich — but happy

MOSCOW (R) — Fifty years after he invented the AK-47 automatic rifle used in innumerable wars across the world, Mikhail Kalashnikov says he has hardly made a kopeck and doesn't even get paid on time. But the 77-year-old Russian gun designer, whose achievements were feted at the weekend by President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, says he is happy. And even if he had made riches, he says he would give them up now to help fellow workers who have not been paid for months. "If I had been paid at least five kopecks [dimes] for every one of my guns that has been made, I would... promise to give you [workers] my money," Mr. Kalashnikov said in comments broadcast by Russia television Sunday.

"But, like you, I have not received my salary for seven months," he said. It was not clear when Mr. Kalashnikov, still a designer at a company in Izhevsk in Russia's ural mountains, gave the interview, or whether he and other local workers had since received their pay. Wage debts have piled up at Russian defence plants because of a payments crisis. But the government says it is gradually paying these salaries off as well as wiping out wage debts to public sector workers such as doctors and teachers. Mr. Kalashnikov, a small, grey-haired man who will be 78 later this month, said other things made up for the lack of money in his life. "When I travel abroad I am often asked about this and they try to portray me as neglected and poor. But I say look — what other living designer can say that he has had a bronze monument erected to him in his town?" he said. "Who can say they were visited by the president and personally awarded medal number one while still alive? who of the Western designers can say that a museum is being built to him while he is still alive? isn't this real wealth?"

President Yeltsin went to Izhevsk in 1994 to hang the for services to the motherland medal around Mr. Kalashnikov's neck to mark his 75th birthday and promoted him from retired colonel to the ceremonial rank of major-general. President Yeltsin sent a message of congratulations Saturday. "You have every right to be named one of the outstanding makers of arms of our time, for more than half a century you have been expending your forces, knowledge and talent for a noble cause — the country's stronger defences," Mr. Yeltsin said. "The Kalashnikov assault rifle is the pinnacle of your immense talent. Reliability and perfection are the two characteristics that have won it the fame of the best automatic rifle in the world." Mr. Chernomyrdin paid homage to Mr. Kalashnikov by visiting Izhevsk at the weekend. Russian news agencies said more than 100 million Kalashnikov rifles had been produced in the last 50 years and were used in more than 50 countries. The light, sturdy and simple weapon was also used by separatists in the Chechnya region who fought a 21-month war with Moscow until August last year. Mr. Kalashnikov designed the AK-47 after he was wounded in his tank in 1941 during World War II and heard Soviet soldiers complain in hospital about their cumbersome carbines. The war was over by the time his ideas found a willing audience among his military superiors and he makes clear he received no major financial remuneration from Soviet authorities.

First woman to run for Parliament in Ajloun competes against four men from her clan

(Continued from page 1) uninterested, overall, and the stuff of which elections are made are clearly absent here: political parties, political agendas and the Islamist-led boycott do not factor into the elections lingo. No candidate is running on a party ticket — "the government doesn't want parties, so they don't work, why would we vote for them?" asks one — although several candidates are believed to have "unofficial" affiliation to the newly formed National Constitutional Party (NCP) but will rely on tribal support. So who will fill Ajloun's two Muslim and single Christian seats? All those interviewed gave varying accounts of the outcome, owing to the fact that former deputies Daifallah Al Momani and Farah Rabadi will not be contesting this year's elections. Mr. Momani, who won in 1993 on an IAF ticket but also enjoyed tribal backing to secure his seat, is upholding the IAF boycott, while Farah Rabadi, Ajloun's former Christian representative, switched his candidacy to the richer political grounds of Amman's 3rd District. Residents say that Ajlounis prefer the tried and tested, so the loss of the two seems to have scattered alliances even within tribes, which is where the votes tend to flow. Ajloun, which now enjoys the new political status of "governorate," upgraded from an Irbid district according to minor amendments introduced to the election law this spring, is largely dominated by the Momani and Qudah tribes. As of Sunday, the two have 10,293 and 6,899 voters, respectively: 31 per cent of the Ajloun vote. Residents seemed to favour former deputy and minister of culture Ahmad Mufleh Qudah for the first Muslim seat, which according to press reports, would require 2,700-3,300 votes. "You can say that he has many supporters here," claims Issam Qudah from behind the till of a local convenience store, "and many from outside the tribe — he was a public sector doctor for 30 years and he did favours as well as working for the general good." Dr. Qudah's affiliation with the NCP, they say, will not compromise support from his tribe, which will be to some extent shared with former director general of the free trade zone Fakhri Qudah, Samir Qudah, Mohammad Yousef, and Hani Qudah. Beyond this, analysts have shied away from predicting any clear winner for the second seat. Former 11th Parliament deputy Ahmad Annab, Hazem Al Momani, Abdul Hafez Momani, Riad Smadi and Mohammad Khair Smadi are also runners. Ajloun's Christians are fielding 14 candidates, and most prominent hopefuls have been noted as Nabil and Naji Muqash, Yacoub Rabadi, Yousef Rabadi, Bassam Haddad, Jamal Haddad and Rida Haddad, and here again, failure to unify tribal votes has made the outcome difficult to predict.

their region, campaigning against tribalism and sectarianism. One observer attributed this fact to the lack of tribal support for those that he described as "weak candidates." So far 95 per cent of the registered voters in the district have collected their voting cards.

Ma'an candidates count on last-minute withdrawals to win tomorrow's elections

(Continued from page 1) 3,100-vote-strong Awajan tribe, are tipped by observers as possible winners. "Because of the split in votes within the tribes, candidates are trying to garner votes from beyond their own clans," a resident from Ma'an said. The Ma'an candidates, whose hammers did not reflect any political concerns, promised to follow up demands for the establishment of a private university in Ma'an independent from Mu'tah University, which has a branch in the southern district. Their other pledges where no different than those of candidates in the rest of the Kingdom's constituencies. They include protecting women's rights, combating poverty and unemployment, fighting against corruption and more seats for students at universities. Some candidates, however, appeared to be antithetical to the tribal nature of

their region, campaigning against tribalism and sectarianism. One observer attributed this fact to the lack of tribal support for those that he described as "weak candidates." So far 95 per cent of the registered voters in the district have collected their voting cards.

Boycotting Brotherhood still part of regime, says Armouti

(Continued from page 1) prominent members — former Deputies Abdullah Akaleh (Tafilieh) and Mohammad Azaydeh (Madaba) — for their decision to run for this year's elections. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Dr. Armouti maintained that 32 Islamists are running in this year's elections as independents. The official spokesperson also said that 109 out of the 532 candidates contesting the elections are affiliated with opposition groups. (The Jordan Times in the headline of its Sunday story misquoted Dr. Armouti as saying that "20 per cent of the next Parliament will be opposition"). Dr. Armouti's figures, however, were rejected by Muslim Brotherhood leader Jamil Abu Bakr, who told a press conference yesterday that there are less than 20 opposition candidates, including five Islamists. Groups boycotting tomorrow's polls expect a turnout of no more than 35 per cent, opposition leaders said Sunday. "We represent the vast majority of the people, and we launched this boycott in order to rescue the country from the continuous erosion of parliamentary representation," the National Reform Forces (NRF) declared in a statement. They said that in the last 1993 elections "the government imposed the one-person, one-vote system in order to pave the way to the Wadi Araba treaty and ensure a docile Parliament that would approve that treaty." "They [the government] have signed the treaty, and the one person, one-vote system served them to seal that humiliating treaty," the NRF statement said. The outspoken Mr. Shbellel told reporters that these elections are intended "to push forward the Zionisation of the country." Despite the boycott, Dr. Armouti announced that 80.51 per cent of registered voters — 1,479,932 — collected their voting cards before the deadline Saturday evening, and said that such figure suggested a high turnout. He noted that the lowest ratio of card holders to registered voters was in Amman's 3rd District (62.5 per cent), while the highest ratio was in the Northern Bedouin District (99.51 per cent). The total of registered voters is 1,838,223, according to Dr. Armouti. Various adjustments were made to the initial figure of over 1.9 million names, including the cancellation of repeated and dead people's names. Dr. Armouti also announced that the ambassadors of European Union (EU) member states "have submitted a request to visit polling and counting stations, and the government, through the minister of interior, has welcomed such request." Diplomatic sources, however, stressed that the request did not mean that envoys or diplomats would be monitoring the elections, and was not a collective EU initiative. "Individual member states have asked to observe the elections, but in a very informal way and in the framework of the usual task of foreign missions to be informed about what is happening in the host country," said chargé d'affaires at the Dutch embassy, J.A. Kappert.

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Diana murdered in a commando carbomb attack, tabloid reports

LONDON (AFP) — A British tabloid newspaper on Sunday printed "vital new evidence" which it said it had obtained that Diana, Princess of Wales, had been murdered in a commando-style "carbomb attack." The People said explosives experts and police investigators believed a "deadly device" was fired from a car pursuing the Mercedes in which Diana and her companion Dodi Fayed were travelling. The paper said two cars, a Fiat Uno and a Mercedes, had been speeding away from the tunnel in Paris in which the fatal crash happened on the night of Aug. 30. It added that a British secretary who gave evidence about the Fiat Uno's presence had "disappeared" since giving information to police, and the investigators were working on the theory that the car was being electronically tracked. Finally the paper asked its readers to call in with theories to explain the "murder mystery."

Levy off to U.S., Arafat not optimistic on talks

(Continued from page 1) Minister Moshe Katzav said Saturday. "What we are proposing to the Palestinians is that we postpone it — for security reasons — until there's a final settlement." Mr. Levy is accompanied by officials from his ministry and the heads of four of the nine joint Israeli-Palestinian commissions for implementing accords on Palestinian autonomy. Ms. Albright is expected to open the discussions on Monday before turning the effort over to Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross. The talks cap two months of U.S. efforts to revive the peace process, which was brought to a halt in March by Israel's groundbreaking of a controversial new Jewish settlement on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem and three Palestinian bombings which have left 25 Israelis dead.

Pick Your Pie



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HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN

Noor Al Hussein Foundation
The National Music Conservatory

In cooperation with
The Italian Embassy

presents

Quartetto D'archi Di Roma

Vittorio Di Lotti (violin)
Stefano Di Lotti (violin)
Aldo Giovannelli (viola)
and Mino Chivri (cello)

Tuesday, 11 November 1997 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre, JD 7

Wednesday, 12 November 1997 8:00 p.m.
Roway Al Balka (followed by a dinner at Al-Zawadeh Restaurant, JD 35)

The Quartet will present a different program in each evening featuring pieces by R. Corelli, Boccherini, Beethoven, Donizetti and Puccini.

Noor Al Hussein Foundation
The National Music Conservatory and of Culture

In cooperation with
Goethe Institute

present

Ensemble Incanto

Guido Schiefen (cello)
Ralph Mann (clarinet)
and Liesa Klahn (piano)

Saturday, 8 November 1997 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

Tickets available at:
- Al-Halla Superstore, tel. 688481
- Al-Halla Superstore, tel. 5327695
- Balchita, tel. 641322
- Cafe Moka, tel. 856285
- Goethe Institute, tel. 649270
- Safeway, tel. 685311
- The Royal Cultural Center, tel. 669026
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

In the program pieces by Debussy, Poulenc, Schumann and Brahms.

Ticket price: JD 7

Defence spending stifles growth in Arab countries

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia and its five Arab Gulf allies are still reeling under heavy defence spending which is stifling economic growth and blocking attempts to rebuild their reserves, experts have said.

Since Iraqi invasion forces were ejected from Kuwait in early 1991, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have pursued a massive drive to bolster their armies, using their eroding petrodollars at the expense of other sectors.

Arab League figures showed the 16-year-old economic, political and defensive alliance has allocated an average 30 per cent of their expenditure between 1991 and 1997 for defence, one of the highest levels in the world.

With total spending standing at around \$653 billion, defence allocations are estimated at nearly \$195 billion.

"The figure accounts for nearly 40 per cent of their total oil revenues during that period. Just imagine if only half that sum was channelled into productive sectors," a Riyadh-based economic expert said.

"There is no doubt the defence sector is putting heavy pressure on their coffers and economic growth. I think this should prompt Gulf governments to think seriously of economic reforms to spur growth," he added.

Diplomats said around 10 per cent of the GCC's total defence allocations had been used to buy weapons. The remaining funds went to salaries for military personnel, police and security as well as for military construction.

In assuming that level, the six members have spent nearly \$65 billion on the purchase of weapons, including jets, tanks and missiles.

Gulf defence officials have said billions of dollars would also be spent over the next few years in an ongoing beef-up programme that was triggered by their exposure to external aggression when Iraqi troops seized Kuwait in a few hours and crossed the border towards Saudi Arabia.

"Defence spending in the GCC has been on the rise since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This is because of more weapons imports, an increase in the number of troops and higher salaries for military personnel in most member states to encourage nationals

to join the armed forces," a Western diplomat said.

A surge in defence expenditure and the expected new purchases have led some GCC countries to introduce offset programmes, under which arms suppliers must reinvest part of the weapons deal's value in civilian projects in the importing country. Other GCC states are considering following suit.

After negative growth in some GCC countries, the economies of the six members surged by more than seven per cent in nominal terms in 1996 and are expected to record modest growth rates in 1997, according to officials and economists.

But the high growth last year was mainly due to a sharp increase in oil prices as some other sectors recorded much lower rates.

"The 1996 figure was nominal as growth was caused mostly by the rise in crude prices while inflation was not calculated. I think real growth rates in 1996 did not exceed three per cent," an Abu Dhabi-based banker said.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have been under the pressure of weak oil prices and huge payments for a U.S.-dominated international coalition that drove the Iraqis out of Kuwait. This has combined with growing defence commitments and persistent budget deficits to consume their international cash reserves.

Although they have slightly recovered to around \$24 billion, the reserves are still far below their 1980 level of more than \$45 billion.

"Defence spending is again one of the reasons for the relatively low reserves. Some members are setting aside part of the oil revenues for the reserves then they withdraw them later to bridge a gap in the budget due to over-spending through the year," an economist said.

"I believe this situation is going to continue for a while as more arms deals are in the pipelines and oil prices are not expected to increase sharply... But in military terms, I think GCC countries are convinced they should pay this economic price — at least to ease their vulnerability," he added.

Asia: World's largest, fastest-growing market

LONDON (AFP) — Asia is by far the world's largest market, with a nearly 37 per cent share, ahead of North America and Europe, and it has enjoyed the fastest growth since the start of this decade, a study has showed.

North America and western Europe hold roughly the same share of the global market, around 20.5 per cent, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), a research body affiliated to the British weekly, The Economist.

The EIU calculates the market size of a country or region from its population (total and urban), private expenditure, steel consumption, electricity production and number of telephones, cars and television sets.

The data was compiled for 1995.

The world's fourth most important region is Latin America (with eight per cent of the global market),

followed by eastern Europe (6.3 per cent), Africa (4.1 per cent), the Middle East (2.9 per cent) and Australasia (1.1 per cent).

By country, the major markets are the United States (18.4 per cent), China (12.3 per cent), Japan (8.3 per cent), India (6.35 per cent), Germany (4.5 per cent), Russia (four per cent), France (3.2 per cent), Italy (2.9 per cent), Brazil (2.7 per cent), Mexico (two per cent) and Canada (two per cent).

Between 1990 and 1995, Asia surged ahead of other regions with a 25 per cent jump in the size of its market.

The next best performer was Latin America with a 20.7 per cent market growth, followed by western Europe (8.8 per cent), Africa (7.9 per cent), Australasia (7.4 per cent), North America (6.7 per cent) and the Middle East (4.8 per cent).

In contrast, eastern Europe saw its market size squeezed by 17.2 per cent over five years.

Among individual countries, Mexico took the lead with an impressive 82 per cent growth rate, followed by China with 37 per cent and the United States with 5.9 per cent.

Russia, where the market contracted by 21.3 per cent, and Britain, which suffered a 1.4 per cent decline, were the only two among the top 12 countries to experience negative growth.

The EIU also assesses the "market intensity" of a region or country, calculated in relation to the global average for per capita wealth and consumption.

North America has the most "intense" market. Despite the relative poverty of China and India, Asia as a whole is above the world average, unlike Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

UAE struggles to find jobs for nationals

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is finding it difficult to increase employment among its citizens as the private sector balks at hiring higher-paid Emiratis over lower-cost foreign workers.

Employment experts, who have reported progress in job nationalisation in the public sector, privately express frustration at the low proportion of Emiratis working in the much larger private sector.

"There are armies of unemployed nationals and the only way out is the private sector," a UAE university professor said.

"But here is the problem — how to persuade companies to employ nationals when their salary is nearly triple that of expatriates," he added.

The oil-rich Gulf country, which relies heavily on Asians and other expatriate labour, does not publicly acknowledge it has an unemployment problem but independent estimates put jobless Emiratis at more than 200,000.

After years of efforts, nationals still account for below 10 per cent of the private workforce although they have doubled to nearly 15 per

cent in a 10-year drive to nationalise jobs in government departments.

The banking sector has proved particularly difficult for creating more jobs for Emiratis. Despite repeated instructions by the central bank to the country's 47 banks to boost the level of the local workforce, the number of Emiratis employed in the banks declined to around 800 at the end of 1996 compared to more than 1,000 in 1992.

Ruling out punitive counter measures, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Matar Al Tayer said the government had no plans to force the private sector to recruit natives. But he suggested the government could try incentives.

"We have no plans to force the private sector to employ nationals. But we want it to help us in finding jobs for our people on the basis of cooperation and understanding," the minister said.

According to Al Bayan newspaper, the ministry has just set up a committee headed by its undersecretary Mohammed Al Suwaidi to study ways to increase the level of national labour in the private sector.

It said the committee

would present proposals to private institutions to encourage them to take in more native workers, carry out studies on the country's labour needs, and identify obstacles to the hiring of Emiratis.

Another committee was created by UAE President Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan last year to secure jobs for nationals.

Hundreds of Emirati candidates have moved into the workforce and their names have been published in local newspapers as one sign of the drive's success. But almost all the posts they received were in government offices, some of which have become overstuffed.

"The problem is not only the private sector, which hesitates in employing nationals, but the local people themselves. They prefer the public sector because it offers much more incentives and benefits," a UAE official said.

"We cannot compel private firms to change their statutes and introduce similar incentives. Such benefits and the fact that the national employees demand high salaries will put pressure on their budgets," he added.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You may have a romance with someone from a different country. There's something unusual about this situation, perhaps even inappropriate. Be sure you're very careful. Secrets will be revealed. Make sure they're not ones that will get you in trouble.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There could be an unexpected loss or some sort of surprise having to do with money. Perhaps your loved one plans to buy something without asking you first. You'd better check. You don't want it to happen before you have a chance to make your opinion known.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The fur will fly today, but it'll be a friendly kind of antagonism. You hassle back and forth, but actually both of you enjoy it. You learn a lot from your relationship, especially today. An adventurous type may try to drag you out of your normal routine.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a very intense workday for you. In addition to your own job, you may have to do things should have been done by others. It's going to be kind of stressful, too, but don't fret. You're accumulating brownie points you'll be able to cash in later.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You're enthusiastic and outspoken, but today you'll be even more so. Watch what you say, especially about people at home. Somebody you live with could take something the wrong way. Don't make jokes at anyone else's expense. Be nice, or suffer the consequences.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There's a lot of activity going on at your house. It looks like a fun group, but you might actually welcome going to work to get some peace and quiet. See if you can get someone to clean the place up before you get home. It's all right to ask for that.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your curiosity knows no bounds. You're asking so many questions you may use up your resources. You'll delve farther into the material than you ever have before. This is good for you, and for everyone else concerned. The more you know, the more you teach.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You're powerful, strong and charismatic, of course. You're also concerned about your money, or at least you should be. You want to spend, but at the same time you want to be careful to do it wisely. There are many things you want to buy for friends. Fine. Just don't overdo it.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be careful. It might be smarter to keep most of what you learn to yourself for a little while longer, just to make sure you know how to use the information wisely. Continue to listen and learn. You may find out that what you know is only the tip of the iceberg.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You're under pressure from a hidden source. Someone's bugging you to tell the rest of the story. You don't think everybody should have equal access to your private matters. Continue to be evasive. By tomorrow, the interest will have shifted.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There's no reason why you should have to do everything by yourself. If an older person won't authorize a group effort, you might be feeling frustrated. Don't do anything illegal or underhanded, however. Your friends aren't that good at keeping secrets.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If there's anything you want to know about the people in authority, ask your questions now. You might learn more than you even care about. Don't tell everything. Look, listen and learn instead. Keep the most important stuff to yourself. It gives you an advantage.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

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THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Hiding place
- Stocky horse
- Capital of Italia
- On the other hand
- Blinder
- Muslim leader
- Sudden outbreak
- Church recess
- Boleyn, Henry's second
- Sunday talk
- Na'er-do-well
- Track star, Jesse
- Partner of 41D
- Loathing
- Unsuitable
- Stakes
- Walk along
- First lady
- Pride member
- Prickle
- Platform
- Psychic initials
- Buzz
- Bridal path?
- Loose all hope
- Believer in perfection
- Cleopatra's downfall
- Eucharist's plate
- Dagwood, for one
- Stein filler
- Teen problem
- Cupid
- Motorized bike
- Move
- Headway
- In the course of
- Kids
- Red or Black
- Popular bear

Tuesday's Puzzle solved:

ALIAN	SWAP	CAISE
TIME	ANIMA	ARIL
TOITS	DONOR	NICK
UNITED	WEST	AND
LITLY	AIPO	
OSCINE	MCKINLEY	
MARNE	HERES	ERE
ALEG	SOOAS	CANA
HOS	SALEM	LASER
ANTILLES	CARESS	
CAT	AONE	
OLVIOEOWEFALL		
CHIC	NOIRE	RHEA
PURL	ERRED	EAST
ATEE	SEEM	ESSE

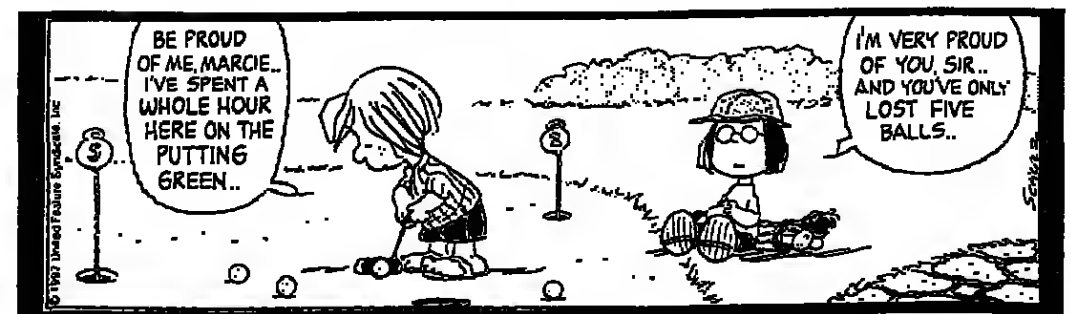
DOWN

- Taxis
- Chills and fever
- Redheads
- Towel word
- Principal dishes
- Fellows
- Expression of surprise
- Pear
- Theater district
- Certain stadium
- Stone for grinding corn
- So be it
- Expressionless face
- In addition
- Lady's man
- Little brown bird
- Dragged
- Aromatic herb
- Golf clubs
- Nothing more
- Ihan
- Look-alikes
- Vices
- Fix the clock
- Norse god of thunder
- Errad
- Desperately urgent
- Elan
- Certain restaurant
- Indiana team
- Touch lightly
- Ziti
- Dramatic personae
- Numerical prefix
- One alone?
- Crude minerals
- Shade of color
- Give temporary usage
- On pins and needles
- Barcelona bravo

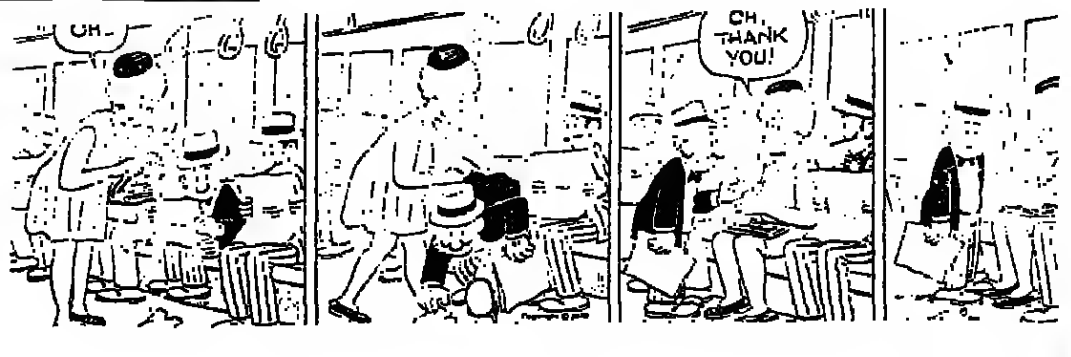
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HOCEK

TILAP

LAISOR

AGMENT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRONE HABIT MEADOW BANANA
Answer: What the outrageous rock group became — A BANNED BAND

Business

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ST

DA

April 19: You may have a remarkable different country. There's something about it. Perhaps even a little bit of it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

May 20: There could be an interesting surprise. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

June 21: The time will come. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

June 22: In addition to the other things, you'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

June 23: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 22: There's a big surprise. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 23: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 24: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 25: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 26: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 27: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 28: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 29: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

September 30: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

October 1: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

October 2: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

October 3: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

October 4: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

October 5: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

October 6: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

October 7: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

October 8: You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it. You'll get it.

Business & Finance

Daily Business

A review of news from the Arabic press

NAF operations seen unsatisfactory

** THE AFFILIATION of the National Aid Fund (NAF) to the Ministry of Social Development hinders the work of NAF and does not provide it with the technical and administrative independence, an official source at the ministry said noting that 50 per cent of NAF's staff are seconded from the ministry.

The source added that in addition to the lack of staff at NAF, those who work there are not enough to carry out the responsibilities they should shoulder. "Studies show that there is a need for 207 of administrative and technical staff or some 50 per cent of the present number of employees," the source indicated.

According to the source, there is a weakness in following up the situations of the beneficiaries who receive monthly aid. "There are thousands of cases that have not been followed up for so many years although there are some cases that require a follow-up every six months," the source said.

The ministry official indicated that 65 per cent of rehabilitation projects funded by NAF are failures and that many families do not meet the conditions to receive recurrent assistance for many reasons such as unreliable and these without credible documents presented to NAF and weak capabilities of researchers. In this regard, the source said, only 19 per cent of those who receive recurrent assistance meet the conditions while 30 per cent of the beneficiaries have not submitted all the required documents. "Thirty five per cent do not meet the conditions and terms at all," the official said.

The source concluded by pointing out that NAF regulations have become old and that loans and recurrent assistance are extended according to the old poverty line. As such, the income set for receiving aid is JD60 for a family whereas the absolute poverty line reaches JD100 and the absolute poverty line for a family of seven members is JD150 (AI Ra'i).

Government spent JD56.5 million on infrastructure during 6 months

** GOVERNMENT SPENDING on infrastructure projects during the first half of this year amounted to JD56.62 million which were awarded through various central tenders. Most of the tenders were

concentrated in Amman and Aqaba. Amman's share of the total was JD15.9 million while JD7.47 million were spent in Irbid and JD7.17 in Aqaba (AI Aswaq).

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 2/11/97 19:02									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	JPY
US Dollar	1.7255	1.3978	1.2080	1.4059	1.6917	1.9444	5.7742		
DE Mark	0.5795	0.3460	0.8106	0.6930	0.8145	0.8023	1.1285	3.3425	
GB Sterling	1.6735	2.8890	2.3460	200.71	2.3528	2831.34	3.2540	9.6831	
CHF Franc	0.7149	1.2328	0.4257	0.8620	1.0044	1208.74	138.85	4.1253	
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4296	0.4648	1.1588	1.1648	14.02	161.09	4.7838	
CA Dollar	0.7113	1.2248	0.4258	0.9942	1.16	1201.36	1.3800	4.1018	
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0193	0.3528	0.0826	1.0446	0.8305	11.48	3.4108	
NL Guilder	0.5143	0.8870	0.3070	0.7183	0.6188	0.7227	0.8868	2.8681	
FR Franc	0.1732	0.2987	0.1034	0.2470	0.2085	0.2434	33.66	33.6600	

Middle Eastern Currencies									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	JPY
US Dollar	0.7080	3.7506	0.3770	3.8405	0.3027	3.6728	1534.00	3.3875	
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	0.1989	0.5295	0.5325	5.1419	0.4278	5.1876	2166.87	4.7846
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1989	0.1005	0.57	0.0807	0.88	408.00	0.9032	
Bahraini Dinar	2.85	1.3780	0.9485	0.98	0.8030	9.74	4088.97	8.9854	
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0302	1.01	0.0832	1.01	421.37	0.9305	
Kuwait Dinar	3.3032	2.3388	1.2388	1.2453	12.03	12.13	5067.05	0.9305	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	0.1026	0.8912	0.0824	417.65	0.9223	
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4615	2.4450	0.2458	2.3732	0.1974	2.3843	2.2035	
Egyptian	0.2952	0.2090	1.1072	0.1113	1.0747	0.0894	1.0842	452.84	

Mid-East Currencies									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4602	0.15832	0.37319	32.1812				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48985	0.1627	0.3811	32.8534				
KW Dinar	3.3032	5.70125	1.97394	4.62321	398.724				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.57875	1.58504	3.71333	320.205				
CY Pound	1.9619	3.3853	1.1716	2.7441	236.806				

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	JPY
USD	5.57	5.68	5.72	5.78	5.81				
GBP	7.00	7.21	7.37	7.47	7.51				
JPY	0.40	0.48	0.43	0.42	0.38				
DEM	3.51	3.75	3.81	3.69	3.54				
FRF	3.52	3.58	3.68	3.63	3.56				
CHF	1.83	1.87	1.93	1.87	2.13				
ITL	6.66	6.50	6.26	5.92	5.73				

JOD Cross Rates									
	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	FRF	ITL	YEN	DM	JPY
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.6222	1.6881							
DE Mark	0.4099	0.4119							
CHF Franc	0.505	0.5075							
FR Franc	0.1222	0.1228							
JP Yen	0.5871	0.59							
NL Guilder	0.2634	0.2652							
IT Lira	0.4175	0.4197							

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Stock market boom and bust dictated by greed alone — report

LONDON (AFP) — Boom and bust stock market fluctuations are simply caused by traders trying to get rich quick rather than complex political and economic pressures, researchers who have created their own "virtual" market have claimed. The traditional view is that the laws governing markets are virtually impenetrable, driven by a complex interrelation of political and economic influences as well as each trader and forecaster's personal perceptions, New Scientist magazine reported. But the computer-generated market produced by Guido Caldarelli and colleagues at Manchester University in northern England

suggests a much more straightforward explanation for booms and crashes — greed. The programme simulates speculators trading with the aim of increasing their own wealth. Initially, stocks are randomly priced and traders buy at random. Later they buy and sell according to recent price history. After each buying round, the trader with the least capital is wiped out and replaced by a newcomer. To the amazement of Mr. Caldarelli's team, the resulting pattern of peaks and troughs almost exactly mirrored those found in real life. One of the team, Yi-

Cheng Zhang, told New Scientist: "The results are quite astonishing, even to us." "For the pure speculation traders, the price movements show all the familiar bull runs, crashes and mini-crashes. Our ultrasimplified model has all the major characteristics of a real market," he said. Mike Dicks, who studies the British economy for the investment bank Lehman Brothers, said he would not expect such a simple model to reproduce such fluctuations. "It's surprising that using only one or two variables, they are able to explain the high frequency changes," he said.

Mr. Caldarelli says the model best simulates volatile and competitive foreign exchange markets. The computer simulation occasionally threw up a sudden crash, a kind of digital Black Wednesday. "The crashes arise only as a result of collective trading activity, and there is almost no warning of their coming," said Mr. Caldarelli. The team now hopes to discover whether a central authority can stabilise the market and avert a crash. "We can probably demonstrate that a central bank or authority has to exist to ensure a stable market," said Mr. Caldarelli.

Asia seen becoming world's largest auto producer and consumer by 2015

BEIJING (AFP) — Asia will surpass North America and be the world's largest consumer and producer of automobiles by 2015, the managing director of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association has said. In an address to the 15th World Petroleum Congress, Tsutomu Kagawa estimated that 1.04 billion vehicles would be in use in the

world by 2015 and some 28 per cent of the market would lie in Asia, compared to 19 per cent in 1995. Production would also rise sharply from 51.6 million units in 1995 to 92.3 million units in 2015. "Trends in growth show Asia surpassing North America and western Europe as the world's largest motor vehicle manufacturing area," Mr.

Kagawa said. "By 2015, Asia is expected to account for 36 per cent of world output compared to North America and western Europe at 25 per cent and 19 per cent respectively," he added. He said both North America and western Europe would register a decline in the consumer share of the market as Asia expanded, with North America falling

from 44 per cent of the market in 1975 to 35 per cent in 1995 and only 28 per cent in 2015. Mr. Kagawa also said that the growth in motor vehicles would push up fuel consumption to 1.6 times its present value by 2015. "Any gains in motor vehicle fuel economy will be cancelled out by greater transport volumes," he said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHIRAZI									
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607175									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 02/11/1997									
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	F / R	OTV.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JO	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
346,000	245,000	ARAB BANK	15.1	1.21	2	60	19730	329.00	329.25 +.25
1,340	1,340	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	26	21112	18045	1.80	1.81 +.01
5,800	4,100	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.5	2.94	2	8020	40902	5.00	5.10 +.10
3,600	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	3	800	2344	2.95	2.93 -.02
1,190	890	MID-EAST INV. BK.	10.3	0.00	3	1000	6420	1.07	1.07 -
2,600	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.1	6.23	11	18275	46243	2.54	2.54 -
5,200	4,600	THE HOUSING BK.	15.2	2.83	3	750	3798	5.06	5.07 +.01
4,180	2,400	JOR. INVESTMENT BK.	10.7	3.01	2	100	20893	3.70	3.72 +.02
1,050	740	JOR. GULF BANK	4.7	8.86	4	6150	4859	8.00	7.99 -.01
4,050	3,430	JOR. ISLANDIC BANK	14.7	3.32	3	500	1802	3.61	3.61 -
3,900	3,080	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	24.6	0.00	1	1000	3820	3.85	3.82 -.03
1,900	880	BEIT-AL-VAH (BEITRA)	16	16.85	11	1750	1543	.90	.89 -.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 236.75 CHG: +0.01 75 70667 190397									
2,020	1,590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.3	8.02	2	1450	2707	1.87	1.87 -
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 116.43 CHG: 0.00 2 1450 2707									
2,050	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.29	23	23100	43722	1.89	1.89 -
8,450	7,800	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	11.5	1.38	8	27510	8100	8.00	8.00 -
4,030	1,320	EMID ELECTRICITY	19.7	3.47	5	2700	8943	3.48	3.31 -.17
3,200	2,450	BIHEM MINERALS	16.2	4.88	2	104	333	3.20	3.20 -
3,050	2,300	SHIPPING LINES	14.5	5.78	3	1100	2149	2.49	2.49 -.06
8,900	6,700	ALRAI	15.5	5.78	3	246	2131	8.75	8.65 -.10
1,740	1,150	MID. EAST HOTELS	20.1	0.00	14	12400	16190	1.35	1.32 -.03
3,900	2,850	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.6	0.00	2	1000	3680	3.70	3.68 -.02
.950	.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	1	100	75	.76	.75 -.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.73 CHG: -0.60 61 67950 295332									
4,450	3,030	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	21.1	3.50	14	13184	41276	3.14	3.14 -
11,160	9,070	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.6	8.15	5	1410	15369	10.95	10.90 -.05
3,260	1,330	INDUSTRIAL CORN. AC.	10.7	0.00	1	100	136	1.33	1.36 +.03
7,150	5,800	EMID ELECTRICITY	19.7	3.47	5	2700	8943	3.48	3.31 -.17
4,700	3,040	ARAB PHARM. CORP.	11.7	4.71	4	719	3055	4.24	4.25 +.01
7,250	4,600	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.7	4.35	2	3200	14900	4.60	4.60 -
1,750	1,020	JOR. PIPES MANUF.	14.1	7.02	4	1000	1150	1.13	1.14 +.01
1,480	1,050	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	23	19150	26921	1.39	1.40 +.01
6,000	4,300	DAR ALDANA DV. INV.	13.8	4.42	4	1300	7345	5.67	5.65 -.02
3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	10.2	0.00	2	1500	720	.48	.48 -

Rally Australia McRae wins after Sainz forced out

PERTH (AFP) — Scotland's Colin McRae won Rally Australia here Sunday on a dramatic final day in which overnight leader Carlos Sainz of Spain was forced to quit with mechanical problems.

But Flying Finn Tommi Makinen, who lifted himself from fifth to second, remains a strong favourite to retain the world championship he clinched a year ago when he claimed the Australian title.

McRae, 29, world champion two years ago, won here in his Subaru Impreza with six seconds to spare over Makinen, who staged a memorable comeback in his Mitsubishi Lancer after several misfortunes early in the contest.

Third was Frenchman Didier Auriol, whose Toyota Corolla was a further 15 seconds behind.

With one world championship race remaining, the British rally later this month. Makinen seems almost certain to retain his crown.

He now has 62 points, 10 more than McRae, and 15 ahead of Sainz, who is out of the running for the top honour.

Sainz, 35, world champion in 1990 and 1992, had strong hopes of winning the Australian event when he began the final day with a two-second lead over

McRae.

But the Spaniard struck trouble early Sunday when his motor failed in the opening one kilometre.

"Without warning, the engine began to give trouble — then it just stopped," he told AFP. "I believe it was something to do with the fanbelt or the timing. It just died away."

"It is a huge disappointment. You can say now the whole year is lost."

FIA World Rally driver standings

1. Tommi Makinen (Fin)	62pts
2. Colin McRae (Gbr)	52
3. Carlos Sainz (Spa)	47
4. Kenneth Eriksson (Swe)	28
5. Piero Liatti (Ita)	24
6. Juha Kankkunen (Fin)	23
7. Richard Burns (Gbr)	18
8. Armin Schwarz (Ger)	11
9. Gilles Panizzi (Fin)	8
10. Freddy Loix (Bel)	8

Bjorkman added to mix of ATP Championships

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Swede Jonas Bjorkman has been added to the mix for this month's season tennis finale in Hanover, Germany, just in time for Monday's start of the \$825,000 Stockholm Open.

The 25-year-old capped a run up the Tour rankings this year from a No. 69 start and became the fourth qualifier for the ATP Championships starting a week from Monday.

By beating compatriot Thomas Enqvist in the semifinals of the Paris Open at the weekend, Bjorkman gained his Hanover place and will rise to a career-high fourth on the world Monday.

"I've been trying to put everything on the side, play good tennis and then see how far I can go," said the newest entrant in the world tennis elite, who starts at the Kungliga hall against German Marc Goeller.

Bjorkman heads a field of eight home players who gained direct entry to one of the last regular season events on the calendar.

With four spots in the eight-man Hanover field still open and a week to play, battles are shaping up in the Swedish capital as well as Moscow and Santiago as up to ten men battle for the four places.

U.S. Open winner Patrick Rafter headlines at Stockholm in his first time as a top seed since earning his Grand Slam title in September.

The good-natured Aussie, along with World No. 1 Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Bjorkman are already assured of Hanover places.

Leading the chase for the remaining places in the final four is Canadian-turned Briton Greg Rusedski. The big hitter is seeded second in Stockholm and is 99 per cent sure of reaching the season finals.

Rusedski opens with a match against Swedish wild card entry Nicklas Kulti, a member of the Davis Cup team that will face the United States in the final in Sweden at the end of the month. Rafter has a start against home player Mikael Tillstrom.

"I feel very fresh and positive," said Rusedski. "I'm also pleased because I'm not peaking before Hanover. I'm looking forward to improving my performance this week."

Another Hanover contender in the field will be Spain's Carlos Moya, who begins against Boris Becker in a repeat of the Australian Open first round which the Spaniard won.

Austrian Thomas Muster, provisional eighth in the field for the final, is seeded fifth and starts with Norwegian Christian Ruud.

No. 10 Spaniard Alex Corretja will need a big week to get to Hanover and will try to start his momentum against a qualifier.

Kafelnikov seeks Kremlin Cup win

MOSCOW (AFP) —

Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, No. 6 in the world, hopes victory in the \$1.2 million Kremlin Cup tournament which starts Monday, will see him through to the World Championships in Hanover later this month.

Top-seeded Kafelnikov will face a stiff challenge from Spaniard Sergi Bruguera, ranked number eight in the world, and Roland Garros winner Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil, the world number 12.

The latter pair, like Kafelnikov former Roland Garros winners, were given wild cards.

"To be honest I did not deserve to play in Hanover because it is quite poor season for me, partly due to band's injury," Kafelnikov said. "But I will be happy if I can make it," he added.

The Moscow tournament's winner will get 230 points, excluding bonuses.

Seeded players:

1. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus), 2. Petr Korda (Cze), 3. Sergi Bruguera (Spa), 4. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra), 5. Felix Mantilla (Spa), 6. Marc Rosset (Swi), 7. Fabrice Santoro (Fra), 8. Nicholas Kiefer (Ger)

Bulls recover from season-opening defeat

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls recovered from a season-opening loss and celebrated the unveiling of their fifth championship banner by defeating the Philadelphia 76ers 94-74 Saturday night.

Ron Harper had 17 points and eight assists and Michael Jordan scored 16 points in 24 minutes for the two-time defending NBA champions, who used a balanced attack to compensate for the absence of injured Scottie Pippen.

Jason Caffey added 14 points and Dennis Rodman had 13 rebounds as Chicago came back from Friday's shocking loss at Boston to beat Philadelphia for the 16th straight time.

Timberwolves 106, Hornets 90: In Minneapolis, Stephon Marbury had 23 points and 13 assists and Kevin Garnett keyed a decisive third-quarter rally that lifted Minnesota over Charlotte.

The victory gave the Wolves a 2-0 record for the first time in franchise history. It is just the second time Minnesota has ever been two games over .500.

Garnett finished with 18 points and eight rebounds, while Tom Gugliotta added 20 points and Cherokee Parks had 14 points and 13 rebounds.

Hawks 90, Raptors 85: In Atlanta, the Atlanta Hawks failed to sell out their home opener at Georgia Tech's 9,300-seat arena, falling 761 tickets shy as they stayed unbeaten against Toronto.

It was the Hawks' ninth victory in as many meetings with the Raptors, who entered the league for the 1995-96 season. Atlanta is 14-0 against Toronto including exhibition games.

Alan Henderson, who scored 20 in Atlanta's opener, came off the bench to score 17 points. Dikembo Mutombo added 18 points and 12 rebounds and Steve Smith had 17 points.

Heat 109, Wizards 108: In Landover, Maryland, Tim Hardaway drove the length of the court and hit a running 12-foot jumper at the buzzer as Miami, after blowing an 18-point lead, beat Washington.

Hardaway put the beat up 107-106 with a three-point play before a twisting layup by Rod Strickland put the wizards ahead with 5.3 seconds to go.

Hardaway then took the inbound pass, dribbled up the left side of the court and let loose with a 12-foot (3 1/2-metre) shot that bit nothing but net, leaving the crowd of 18,291 at the Wizards' home opener in stunned silence.

Hardaway had 26 points and Jamal Mashburn 19 for the beat, who improved to 2-0.

Pacers 96, Warriors 83: In Indianapolis, Larry Bird earned his first victory as an NBA coach as Reggie Miller scored 33 points and Indiana beat Golden State.

Rik Smits added 23 points and 12 rebounds.

Latrell Sprewell, who scored 45 points Friday night at Minnesota, led Golden State with 25. Joe Smith had 17 points and 10 rebounds.

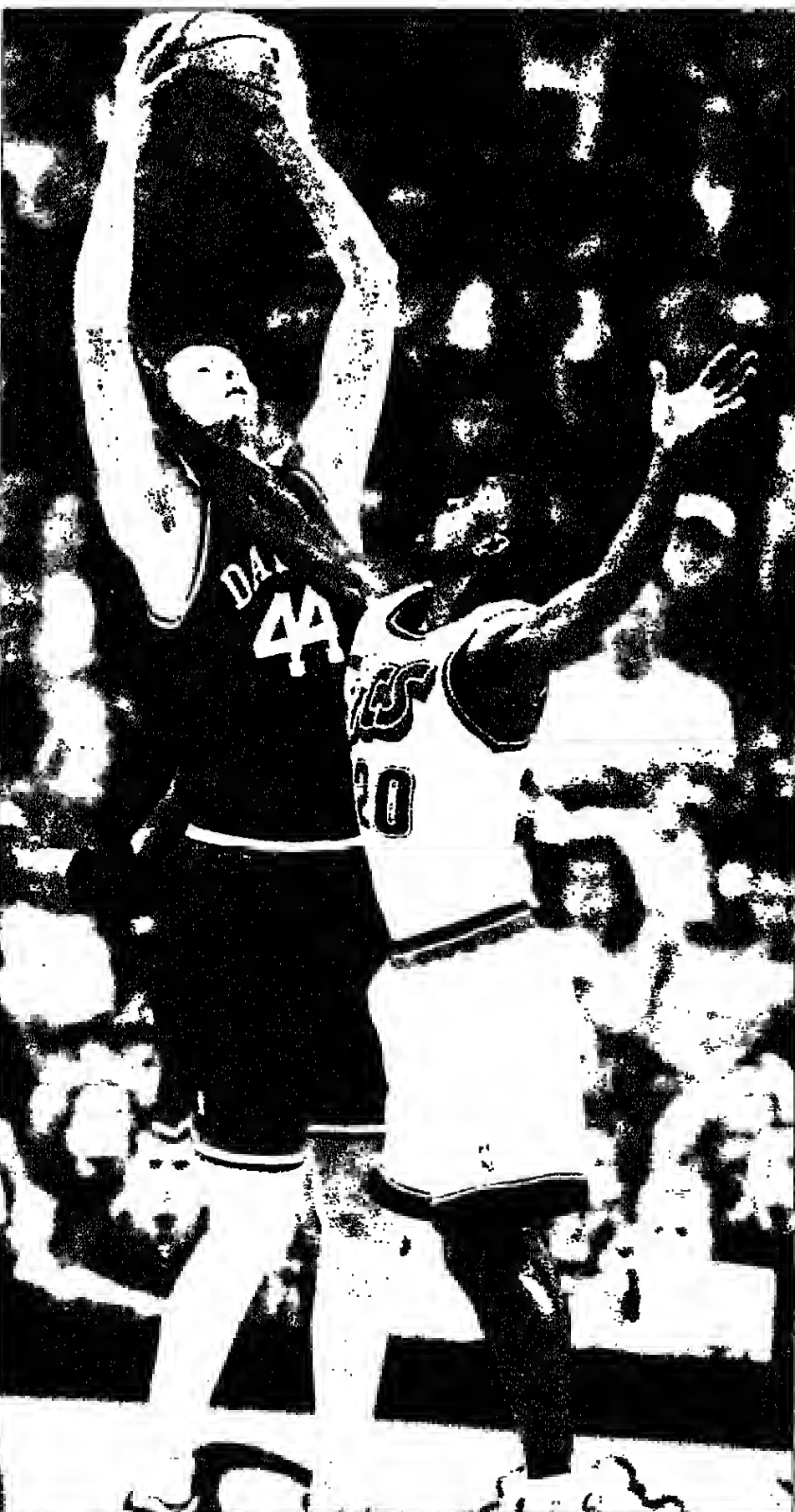
Indiana scored the first three points of the second half to open a 51-38 lead, and Golden State never drew closer than nine again.

Spurs 83, Cavaliers 80: In San Antonio, David Robinson and Tim Duncan made big plays late in the fourth quarter and Avery Johnson scored five points in the final 1:25 as San Antonio defeated Cleveland.

Robinson had 22 points and nine rebounds to lead



Chicago Bulls' guard Michael Jordan sticks his tongue out as he drives around Philadelphia 76ers' Jerry Stackhouse in the first quarter of the Bulls' first home game of the season (Reuters photo)



In a height mismatch, 7'6" Dallas Maverick Shawn Bradley (44) pulls down a rebound over 6'4" Gary Payton (20) of Seattle during first quarter play at Key Arena (Reuters photo)

the Spurs, who overcame a strong performance by Shawn Kemp in his regular season debut with the Cavaliers.

After Vinny Del Negro missed two free throws with 5.4 seconds to play, the Cavaliers had a chance to send it into overtime but Derek Anderson's 3-point attempt fell short as time expired.

Jazz 102, Nuggets 84: In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 24 points and passed ex-Nugget Alex English on the NBA career scoring list as Utah defeated Denver.

Malone, who did not play the fourth quarter, became the ninth-leading scorer in NBA history. English, who scored 25,613 points in 15 seasons, was on hand to witness it as he worked the game a colour analyst for a Denver TV station. Malone now has 25,636 career points.

The Nuggets, who fell to 0-2, were led by Brian Stith with 18 points.

Nets 113, Bucks 109 (OT): In Milwaukee, Chris Gatling's fadeaway jumper with eight seconds left in regulation tied it and his five points in overtime helped seal New Jersey's victory over Milwaukee.

Gatling scored 11 points in the fourth quarter as the nets erased a 12-point deficit, and he scored five of New Jersey's first seven points in overtime and finished with 25.

Sam Cassell scored 33 to lead all scorers.

Mavericks 89, Supersonics 81: In Seattle, Khalid Reeves scored 12 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter and Dallas erased a 13-point deficit in the final five minutes to stun Seattle.

The Mavericks, who closed the game with a 23-2 run, improved to 2-0 for the first time in their 18-year history.

Finley led the Mavs with 20 points. Shawn Bradley had 17 points and 14 rebounds. Dale Ellis led the Sonics with 15 points.

Grizzlies 97, Kings 96: In Vancouver, British Columbia, Bryant Reeves jammed home a rebound with 2.7 seconds remaining to give Vancouver a win over Sacramento.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim led the Grizzlies with 19 points despite shooting 5-for-16 and Otis Thorpe chipped in 15 points, 13 rebounds and four assists. Reeves and Anthony Peeler had 15 each and blue Edwards came off the bench to chip in 12.

Mitch Richmond led Sacramento with 24 points.

Trail Blazers 82, Clippers 74: In Los Angeles, Kenny Anderson scored 10 points in the final four minutes to lead Portland over Los Angeles.

Portland trailed 70-65 with five minutes to go, but a basket by Rasheed Wallace and two driving layups by Anderson put the Trail Blazers up 71-70 with 3:30 left. Anderson added a pair of jumpers and two free throws and finished with 20 points.

The Clippers scored just four points in the final five minutes.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ladies football tournament to be held Nov. 5

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, Al Arab Al Yuom newspaper and the British Embassy in Amman will be hosting the first outdoor football tournament for women to be held at the British Club in Abdoun. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania will open the tournament Nov. 5. Eight teams will be competing for the trophy Nov. 6 with the semi-final matches will kick off Nov. 7 followed by the final. The teams are: the U.S. embassy, the Orthodox Club, Sports City Club, the American School, Al Wihdeh Club, Al Bayan School, Al Arab Al Yuom newspaper, and the British embassy.

Novotna to face unseeded Sugiyama

MOSCOW (AFP) — Top-seeded Jana Novotna of Czech Republic stormed into the final of the \$926,250 Kremlin Cup by defeating Spanish star Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-1 to set up a showdown with Japanese sensation Ai Sugiyama. Sugiyama, 30th in the world rankings, outplayed Belgian Dominique Van Roost 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 in marathon battle which lasted for almost two hours.

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PHILADELPHIA "1"

Wesley Snipes & Patrick Swayze ... in

TO WONG FOO

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PHILADELPHIA "2"

007 GOLDEN EYE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 699238

PLAZA

Van Damme... in

DOUBLE TEAM

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1" Tommy Lee Jones & Susan Sarandon ... in

CLIENT

(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)

CONCORD "2" Alec Baldwin & Kim Basinger ... in

TOO HOT TO HANDLE

Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only

CINEMA TEL: 079 33430

GALLERIA 1

ABDOUN

Nicholas Cage ... in

CON AIR

Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45

CINEMA TEL: 079 11430

GALLERIA 2

ABDOUN

SCREAM

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English Melbourne Cup hopeful, Harbour Dues, is ridden by jockey Ray Cochrane while his handler Les Simpson gestures during track work at Melbourne's Sandown race course in preparation for the Melbourne Cup. The Melbourne Cup, run on November 4, is Australia's richest horse race (Reuters photo)

Hingis fails to get showjumping licence

GENEVA (AFP) — Switzerland's Martina Hingis might be the undisputed queen of women's tennis but on Saturday she was coming to terms with failure after an unsuccessful attempt to earn her showjumping licence.

The 17-year-old women's World No. 1, a keen horsewoman, failed a regional showjumping test at Messen in the northern Swiss canton of Soleure.

Hingis, who has won the Australian Open, the Wimbledon and the U.S. Open singles crowns this year, earned only 102 points over the three sections of the test, six short of the minimum required to earn her regional licence.

"I didn't expect that," said Hingis, who has lost only four times in singles tennis this year.

Hingis will now have to wait three months before she can re-apply, but she has vowed to fight on. "I'm not going to give up. My pride is hurt, even though riding is only my hobby. It wasn't the horse's fault," she said.

It isn't the first time Hingis has come a cropper on horseback.

Last April she injured knee ligaments in a tumble from her mount and was out of tennis for a month.

Giovanni grabs glory as Barcelona shatter Real Madrid

MADRID (AFP) — Brazilian Giovanni grabbed a late winner as Barcelona stunned bitter rivals Real Madrid with a 3-2 victory at a seething Bernabeu stadium in Spanish first division on Saturday.

The victory put Barcelona seven points clear of Real at the top of the table and brought to an end the Madrid side's proud unbeaten record at home stretching back 27 games. It was also their first defeat of the season.

Giovanni pounced on a cross from outstanding Portuguese international Luis Figo 11 minutes from time after Real had recovered from being 1-0 and 2-1 down to twice draw level.

Rivaldo, the big-money replacement for last season's goal hero Ronaldo, put Barcelona ahead in the fifth minute.

An error by the Real defence let Figo in down the right and his cross was directed bravely past hesitant home goalkeeper Santiago Canizares by Rivaldo, sliding in at the near post.

Real controlled the possession without opening up Louis van Gaal's league leaders, whose domestic form has been in stark contrast to their performances in Europe — Barca are hot-

tom of their European Champions' League group, while Real top theirs. Fernando Hierro came closest to

scoring in the first half for Real when his downward header was cleared off the line by the diminutive Barcelona wingback Sergi after 38 minutes.

Croatian Davor Suker and Jose Amavisca also missed good chances for Jupp Heynckes' side but Barca always carried a threat on the counter and fully deserved their half-time lead.

The second period began in explosive fashion. First 20-year-old striker Raul pounced from close range to fire home a cross from Brazilian Roberto Carlos to make it 1-1.

Barely had the home fans in the stadium finished celebrating before Barcelona restored their lead through former Real player Luis Enrique.

The Spanish international skipped passed two challenges and hammered a right-footed rocket past a static Canizares from 25 yards to provoke a crescendo of boos from the Real supporters.

Barcelona's Dutch 'keeper Rud Hesp then did well to parry cannonball free-kicks from Carlos and Hierro, but he could do nothing about Real's second equaliser on the hour mark.

Argentine Fernando Redondo reached the byline and cut the ball back superbly to Suker, unmarked on the edge of the area. The Croatian international cushioned the ball with one touch before crashing a left-foot-

ed shot into the net to make it 2-2 after 61 minutes.

Yugoslav Pedrag Mijatovic later laid the ball on a plate for Suker, but this time the Croatian miscued inexplicably with Hesp stranded.

It was a costly miss. After 79 minutes, following a period of incessant Real attacking, Barcelona broke upfield, with Figo streaking clear down the left.

Giovanni was unmarked in the middle and when the Portuguese slid the ball across, the Brazilian lifted the ball into the roof of the net to silence the home fans again — this time for good.

Former Middlesbrough star Juninho was on target for Atletico Madrid as they moved third with a 3-2 win at Real Betis in Seville.

The Brazilian playmaker struck after 20 minutes, with further goals from Italian international Christian Vieri and Jordi Lardin completing a victory that was easier than the scoreline suggests.

Athletic Bilbao, who travel to Aston Villa in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, warmed up with an impressive 3-0 win over visiting Tenerife. Ismael Urzaiz, Javi Gonzalez and Inigo Larrazabal were on target.

High-flying Mallorca were held 0-0 at Valladolid in Saturday's other match.

Rampant United go four points clear

LONDON (AFP) — Leaders Manchester United made it 13 goals in two games as they cantered to a 6-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford while Arsenal lost their unbeaten record in a 3-0 defeat at Derby in the English Premiership on Saturday.

Andy Cole, Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer each scored twice as United, who demolished Barnsley 7-0 last Saturday, warmed up in style for Wednesday's European Champions' League clash against Feyenoord in Rotterdam.

Alex Ferguson's men now have 28 points, four clear of Arsenal and Blackburn, who drew 1-1 at Barnsley. Leicester are fourth on 22 points after drawing 3-3 with Newcastle at St. James' Park.

Elsewhere, Liverpool, for whom Robbie Fowler scored and was sent off, drew 1-1 at Bolton, while Aston Villa lost 2-0 at home to Chelsea. Leeds won 1-0 at Tottenham and Coventry beat Wimbledon 2-1 at Selhurst Park.

Ryan Giggs was a shock omission for United, but after starting slowly, the home side took the lead with virtually their first attack.

Sheringham, recalled to the side, scored with a firm

shot from just outside the area after 13 minutes, and Wednesday collapsed.

Cole, a hat-trick hero against Barnsley, got a lucky ricochet off a Wednesday defender that sent the ball spinning through the arms of Wednesday goalkeeper Kevin Pressman to make it 2-0 and then grabbed his second and United's third after 38 minutes.

Within two minutes it was 4-0. Solskjaer netting from 12 yards as the champions ran riot. Sheringham dived in to convert David Beckham's free-kick and make it 5-0 after 63 minutes.

Guy Whittingham scored a consolation goal for Wednesday before Solskjaer completed his brace with a curling 14-yard shot.

Arsenal, without suspended Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, should have gone ahead after half-an-hour at Pride Park.

Patrick Vieira went down in the penalty area but Ian Wright slammed the resulting penalty against the crossbar.

Gangly Costa Rican Paolo Wanchope made Arsenal pay dearly a minute after the half-time break, shooting through England goalkeeper David Seaman to make it 1-0. Wanchope grabbed his



Derby County's Costa Rican striker Paolo Wanchope (R) celebrates after scoring his second goal against Arsenal during their Premiership match. Derby County won the match 3-0 (Reuters photo)

second after an error by Nigel Winterburn and then Dean Sturridge chipped Seaman brilliantly to seal the points for Derby and wreck Arsenal's hopes of setting a new unbeaten record in the Premiership.

Barnsley went behind against Blackburn after 30 minutes when Tim Sherwood stabbed home from close range for Rovers, but the home side levelled with a cracking shot from Jovo Bosancic after 79 minutes.

John Barnes was on target from the penalty spot after four minutes at St. James' Park against high-flying Leicester. The former Liverpool playmaker made no mistake after Georgian Temur Ketsbaia was brought down by Ian Marshall in the area.

Marshall made amends soon after, heading home the equaliser, and then repeated the feat from Muzzy Izzet's cross to put Leicester 2-1 before Jon Dahl Tomasson made it 2-2 at half-time.

Matt Elliott put the Midlanders' back in front from Steve Guppy's corner after the break only for John Beresford to score late equaliser for Newcastle. Fowler fired Liverpool

ahead at Bolton's Reebok Stadium after just 49 seconds after good work by Norwegian Oyvind Leonhardsen.

But the match turned after Fowler apparently elbowed an opponent to earn a red card in the second half. Bolton took advantage of the extra man, Nathan Blake planting home a header to earn a point.

Mark Hughes netted on his 34th birthday to put Chelsea 1-0 up at Aston Villa after Dwight Yorke had missed a penalty for the home side.

Norwegian Tore Andre Flo made it 2-0 in the second half.

Bayern squander chance to close in on leaders

BONN (AFP) — Bayern Munich wasted a golden opportunity to close on runaway Bundesliga leaders Kaiserslautern when they were held to a 2-2 draw by local rivals 1860 Munich on Saturday night.

Kaiserslautern opened a five-point lead when they drew 2-2 away to European champions Borussia Dortmund on Friday night and Bayern's draw left them still four points in arrears.

Bayern, unbeaten in 12 matches, were slow out of the blocks and conceded a ninth-minute goal to Horst Heldt, the smallest man on the field.

Dieter Hamman equalised in the 35th but Bernhard Winkler restored 1860's lead in the 52nd minute before Mario Basler made it 2-2 90 seconds later.

Bayern finished with 10 men after Sammy Kouffor was sent off in the 68th minute for a foul — a decision that sparked an outburst from Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer.

"To officiate a derby you need to be specially trained," said Beckenbauer.

"Helmut Krug (the referee) was out of his depth and was unable to calm emotions."

Two goals in the first half hour were not enough for Dortmund to keep Kaiserslautern at bay on Friday night when Olaf Marschall bagging a pair of his own to seal a draw and take his season's tally to 13.

Struggling Dortmund's problems were compounded when defensive kingpin Jurgen Kohler strained ligaments in a knee. He may need a break of several weeks and will certainly miss next Wednesday's European Champions' League clash against Parma. Striker Heiko Herrlich is also doubtful after suffering concussion.

Hertha Berlin boosted their chances of avoiding relegation with an unlikely 2-0 win away to Werder Bremen — their first away victory of the season.

On the verge of being sacked 12 days ago, Berlin coach Jurgen Roeder is suddenly back in the driver's seat after an early own-goal by Bremen libero

Bernhard Trares and an 88th-minute header by Michael Preetz helped Hertha extend Bremen's goalless spell to 375 minutes.

Two classic goals by Thomas Hassler helped Karlsruhe to a 3-1 victory over Cologne, who have now settled in for a struggle in the Bundesliga's basement.

In the absence of injured playmaker Krasimir Balakov, Stuttgart were dismal in their 0-0 draw with third-placed Schalke.

Bochum, who fought their way to a 2-2 draw in Rostock and face strong Belgian side FC Brugge Tuesday in the UEFA Cup, extended their disastrous Bundesliga away record to 10 consecutive matches without a win.

In an extraordinary match on Friday night, a 5-4 goal feast in Borussia Moenchengladbach's favour against Duisburg probably saved coach Hannes Bongartz from the chop.

Sampras too good for Bjorkman

PARIS (AFP) — Pete Sampras won his seventh title of the season here Sunday when he beat 12th-seeded Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the final at the Paris Indoor Open.

His 2hrs 11mins victory, a dress rehearsal for the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg later this month, means that the 26-year-old American is now virtually sure of matching Jimmy Connors' record of finishing the year on top of the rankings for a fifth consecutive time.

Connors managed the feat from 1974-1978. Sampras is currently in his 197th week as World No. 1.

The American, who has now won 51 tournaments and 10 Grand Slam singles titles since turning pro in 1988, went to a Paris clinic late Saturday for X-rays and tests for a painful right shoulder and upper arm and he needed painkillers before Sunday's final.

But he showed no sign of discomfort as he powered to his 51st victory from 61 matches this season.

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RAMALLAH (AP) — Palestinians protesting land confiscation ripped down a wire fence Saturday outside a Jewish settlement, and Israeli troops fired stun grenades into the air to disperse them.

About 200 demonstrators marched against the confiscations for the expansion of Jewish settlements, waving Palestinian flags and banners reading "no peace with settlements" and "stop the land thieves."

There were no injuries and no arrests in the protest, staged at the edge of the Ofra settlement outside the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Earlier Saturday, student supporters of the Islamic group Jihad burned American and Israeli flags as they rallied in another West Bank city, Nablus, to mark last week's anniversary of the assassination of their leader.

Israel has never acknowledged responsibility for the slaying of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shakaki in Malta two years ago, but it is widely believed to have carried out the assassination.

The head of the movement, Ramadan Shalah, addressed the 1,500 students via telephone from Damascus, ordering them to continue on his path of confrontation.

"We are preparing for a holy war in order to defend our land and our religion," he told the students in remarks played over a loudspeaker.

Banners bearing quotes attributed to Shakaki — such as "I will fight Zionism until the last drop of my blood" — filled the Al Najah University campus. A seven-meter — tall poster of the slain leader towered over the crowd.

Mr. Shalah also called on the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to release Palestinian political prisoners.

Demonstrations were staged elsewhere in the West Bank to call for the release of Palestinian political prisoners by Israel, which is holding about 3,000 such prisoners. One-third of them have never been tried.

In Ramallah, about 200 protesters burned Israeli flags

and a poster of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, chanting, "no peace without the release of prisoners."

Amor Halil, a 22-year-old student, said if Israel does not agree to a prisoner release, "we will burn the ground underneath the Israeli's feet."

Other rallies were held in the West Bank towns of Hebron and Jericho, but there were no reports of injuries or arrests.

The demonstrations came hours before an Israeli election campaign led by Foreign Minister David Levy was leaving for Washington for U.S.-hosted peace talks set to begin Monday.

According to Israeli media reports, Washington is pressuring Israel to give the PNA another 10 per cent of the West Bank and commit to a starting date for a promised troop pullback.

Israel, however, wants the PNA to shelve demands for a troop pullback. In exchange, it is offering to slow Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

while the two sides move toward negotiations on a permanent peace agreement.

In other developments Saturday, the Palestinian legislature met to discuss the case of a fellow lawmaker arrested in Israel last week while driving an allegedly stolen car.

No statement was issued immediately following the closed-door session.

Earlier, a Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Attorney General Fayed Abu Rahme had asked the parliament to lift the immunity of Moussa Abu Sabha, the accused lawmaker.

Parliament Speaker Ahmad Qoreia said the Palestinian civil affairs ministry had already asked Israel to hand over Mr. Sabha to the PNA for investigation and possible prosecution.

The growing phenomenon of stealing cars in Israel and taking them to self-rule areas has become a major embarrassment for the PNA.

DUBAI (R) — The Clinton administration's top Middle East expert left Saudi Arabia on Sunday after trying to persuade the United States' most influential Gulf ally to abandon opposition to a controversial conference with Israel attending.

A U.S. official in Saudi Arabia said Martin Indyk, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern and Near Eastern affairs, left Riyadh after discussions with King Fahd's heir apparent Prince Abdullah.

He headed for the Omani capital Muscat to meet Sultan Qaboos and had previously had discussions in Cairo and Sanaa with the leaders of Egypt and Yemen respectively.

Mr. Indyk, formerly U.S. ambassador to Israel, is touring Arab capitals to rally recalcitrant support for the Middle East and North Africa economic conference (MENA), due to begin in Qatar on Nov. 16 with the participation of Israel.

The annual conference, aimed at facilitating Israeli participation in Arab economies, began four years ago as a result of the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians.

Several Arab states have already refused to attend because of what they see as Israel's refusal to honour peace deals signed with the Palestinians.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have said they would not attend MENA, which has already been downgraded from a summit. Several Arab states have privately asked Qatar to cancel or at least postpone the event.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel, said Saturday Israel's failure to honour its peace pledges had rendered the conference meaningless.

"I cannot see any meaning at all to the economic conference because of Israel's lack of respect to what has been agreed to," he said during an official visit to the UAE where he had talks with President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

"Egypt believes that achievement of tangible progress in the peace process, be it a halt to settlements building, or even redeployment, would be an encouraging factor for attending the conference," he said.

Mr. Indyk, author of the Clinton administration's "dual containment" policy against Iran and Iraq, was also to visit Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait.

The U.S. Information Service said he would discuss regional and bilateral issues.

The UAE is also linking attendance at the Doha conference with progress in the peace process.

"The position of the UAE is still as it was: if there is real progress, tangible progress in the peace process on all tracks, then it would be possible, otherwise, no way," a UAE official said.

Sheikh Zayed, the Gulf's elder statesman, spoke out over the weekend in a renewed appeal for Arab reconciliation and unity — a message seen by Gulf analysts as a plea to put aside bitter memories of the 1991 Gulf war over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"It's time that we closed ranks, seek to forgive and call for compassion among ourselves... and to keep the door open to all Arabs — people and leaders, because there is no way but this way," he said in a message published on the eve of a conference Sunday on the future of the Arab World.

SANAA (AP) — Yemeni security forces have surrounded the area where kidnappers are holding a U.S. hostage and have arrested more than 33 members of the local tribe, a security official said Saturday.

The security forces have detained members of the Bakael tribe to gain leverage in negotiations for the release of engineer Steve Carpenter, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More than 100 troops in armoured vehicles have encircled the northern Barat area where Mr. Carpenter is believed to be held, the source said.

Mr. Carpenter, 47, whose family lives in Alice, Texas, was working as executive director of a Yemeni firm, Al Hashedi Contracting and Oil services Company, when six gunmen seized him as he walked into the company's offices in downtown Sanaa on Thursday.

The kidnappers, who belong to the Bakael tribe, took Mr. Carpenter to Barat, 160 kilometres north of the capital, the official said.

Tribal sheikhs from Barat have started negotiating for Mr. Carpenter's release, said the source.

Yemeni tribes have frequently kidnapped foreigners to press for money or government financing of projects.

Meanwhile, negotiations are still ongoing for the release of four Russians being held by another tribe, the Hadda.

Sergei Galkin and Igor Zharkov and their wives were abducted Oct. 22 to protest a supreme court verdict sentencing one man to death and three others to prison terms for raping an 11-year-old Hadda boy.

The kidnappers had demanded that all four men be executed.

In September, Yemen said it would increase security for tourists in an attempt to prevent kidnappings, which have risen dramatically this year.

At least 30 tourists have been abducted in 1997. All were released unharmed.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — U.S. actor Kirk Douglas is interested in buying property in the renovated Jewish quarter of the Old City of east Jerusalem, the newspaper Yediot Achronot reported Sunday.

Zvi Khaimovitch, chairman of the Association for the Restoration and Development of the Jewish Quarter, told the paper that Mr. Douglas had already made a number of large donations to an institute for Talmudic (Jewish scriptural) studies in the quarter.

He said the actor now wanted to support a project to expand residential buildings.

The 81-year-old Douglas, who is Jewish, has said in Israeli newspaper interviews that he has been interested for several years in the study of his religion.

The project to develop east Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter was announced last week by Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush.

It envisages, among other things, the creation of a new gateway to the Old City by piercing through its centuries-old walls. The proposal has provoked protests from archaeologists and architects.

The project, which has a price tag of around \$11 million, will also embrace the construction of extra storeys on residential buildings, the building of two new hotels and the reconstruction of Jewish holy places, Mr. Porush said.

The government of Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu wants to stem the exodus of residents of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, which has been quite noticeable since the intifada, the Palestinian uprising against Israel occupation (1987-93).

Israel has occupied east Jerusalem since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The Palestinians are opposed to Jewish settlement activity in east Jerusalem, which they regard as the capital of the Palestinian state they wish to set up.

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TEL AVIV (AP) — Russia's foreign minister shouted angrily at his Israeli counterpart, David Levy, during a visit last week, an Israeli newspaper reported.

During Yevgeny Primakov's visit to Israel, he and Mr. Levy tangled over the issue of missile technology that Iran has tried to obtain from Russian companies, the Yediot Ahronot newspaper reported Friday.

At one point, the story said, Russian Foreign Minister Primakov shouted "nonsense" in response to Mr. Levy's expressions of concern over the missile technology issue.

Israel long has warned of alleged Russian-Iranian cooperation in missile technologies. Last month's statement marked the first time Russia acknowledged Iran had attempted to get missile technology.

Last month, Russia's security service acknowledged that Iran has tried to obtain missile technology from Russian companies, but insisted that all such attempts have been thwarted.

Along with the U.S., Israel accuses Iran of sponsoring international terrorism and of attempting to build long-range missiles and nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charges.

Israel fears that Iran's possession of long-range missiles would further destabilize the Middle East, reinforcing the hardliners against Muslims.

In Cairo Friday, ending his Middle East visit, the Russian foreign minister

ANKARA (AFP) — Escalating tensions between rival NATO-members Turkey and Greece are not strong enough to lead to an armed confrontation, U.S. special envoy for Cyprus Richard Holbrooke said in interviews published Sunday.

"I don't believe there will be fighting between Turkey and Greece. This is not a real crisis," Mr. Holbrooke said in interviews with the liberal Istanbul newspapers *Yeni Yuzylu* and *Sabah*.

Mr. Holbrooke's remarks came at a time of rival military manoeuvres by Turkey and Greece in the eastern Mediterranean and remarks by Turkish and Greek and Greek-Cypriot officials accusing each other of provoking a confrontation.

Twenty-four Turkish F-16 and F-4 military aircraft, four frigates, three submarines and other naval ships were taking part in the exercises dubbed *Karailik-97* (Determination-97), scheduled to continue in the Mediterranean's international waters until next Saturday.

The Turkish army, navy and air force were also due to begin another manoeuvre dubbed *Toros 2-97* in Turkish-held north Cyprus between Nov. 3 and 5, during which eight Turkish F-16 fighters are to fly to northern Cyprus for the first time in 10 years.

On Friday, the Greek military said its *Pammonio-97* manoeuvres had begun and would run through next Thursday in the Aegean Sea and Mediterranean near Cyprus and in its Evros mainland region near the Turkish frontier.

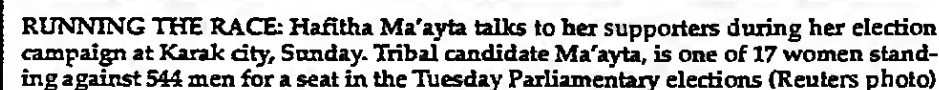
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Israel has occupied east Jerusalem since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The Palestinians are opposed to Jewish settlement activity in east Jerusalem, which they regard as the capital of the Palestinian state they wish to set up.



ABU DHABI (R) — The head of the Arab League said on Sunday that Libya would never extradite two of its citizens to Britain or the United States for trial on charges of bombing a U.S. airliner in 1988.

Esmar Abdul Meguid told a news conference on the sidelines of a symposium on the future of the Arab World that Libya maintained its offer to let the two men stand trial in a neutral country but with Scottish judges.

"Libya would not turn over its citizens because under international law, it is not possible for one country to surrender its citizens to another country unless the two are bound by a mutual extradition agreement," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

"Britain's insistence that the trial take place in Scotland is rejected," he said.

Britain and the United States say the two Libyans were behind the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, in which 270 people died, many of them Americans.

The United Nations imposed sanctions on Libya in 1992 for refusing to extradite the pair to face trial in Britain or the U.S. Libya says they would not get a fair trial in either country.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said Britain could overcome the legal complications of moving a Scottish court outside its territory by having the U.N. Security Council issue a special resolution setting up such a court.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said last week he was asking U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Abdul Meguid and his counterpart in the Organisation of African Unity to send teams to see the Scottish legal system in action in the hope of breaking a deadlock preventing the trial.

Dr. Abdul Meguid said he did not intend to take up the invitation.

attempts have been thwarted. Along with the U.S., Israel accuses Iran of sponsoring international terrorism and of attempting to build long-range missiles and nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charges.

Israel fears that Iran's possession of long-range missiles would further destabilise the Middle East, reinforcing the hardliners and Islamists.

In Cairo Friday, ending his Middle East visit, the Russian foreign minister charged that Israel had brought about the impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process by going back on its word.

"It is clear that the present deadlock... is the result of the fact that the Israeli government deviated from the agreements and understandings concluded by its predecessors," Mr. Primakov said.

The statement was unusual in that it put the blame squarely on Israel for the peace process that unravelled after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took power last year.

Mr. Primakov visited Lebanon, Syria, Israel, the West Bank, Jordan and Egypt. In Cairo, he announced that Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posudalyuk would take charge as an envoy to the Middle East.

Russia is officially a co-sponsor of the peace process, which began with the 1991 Madrid conference. But the U.S. has played a far greater role.

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's state-run Anatolian news agency said Sunday that nearly 1,000 civilians had fled fighting in northern Iraq and arrived in Turkey.

It said that 179 refugees had crossed into Turkey through the Habur border gate with northern Iraq Saturday, bringing the number of such migrants to 951.

Clashes between the two main Kurdish factions in

The agency said that the families had left the Atrush, Mukli, Balkoz, Simlik and Ayasufi camps in northern Iraq, which Turkey says are controlled by guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

In January the U.N. pulled out of the Atrush camp, which at one time sheltered more than 14,000 refugees, saying PKK rebels had set up there and were blocking

noticeable since the 1948-49 conflict, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation (1987-93). Israel has occupied east Jerusalem since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The Palestinians are opposed to Jewish settlement activity in east Jerusalem, which they regard as the capital of the Palestinian state they wish to see.

CAIRO (AFP) — A young Egyptian man fainted on his wedding night when he lifted the veil of his new bride only to discover he had married someone other than his intended, an Egyptian newspaper reported Sunday. The daily Al-Akhbar said that the man, an unidentified professional driver living in the Jiza suburb of Cairo, had intended to marry a young beauty of 18 whom he had met through a friend and with whom he had fallen in love. After asking the woman's parents for her hand, the man bought his fiancée jewellery, rented a love nest, and married his beloved only to find on his wedding night that the marriage veil concealed an unattractive woman of 45.

DUBAI (AFP) — To adapt French cuisine to eastern tastes, a Marseilles chef in Dubai has come up with a new dish: snail kebab. Based on the Provençal *Brochette D'Escargot* (snail on a skewer), the new dish is presented very like the more familiar, shish kebab. According to chef Raphael Le Manco, the recipe is simple: "A small edible snail, a slice of green pepper, a slice of red pepper, some garlic and some onion, all skewered on a stalk of rosemary."

CAIRO (AFP) — A Egyptian woman gave birth to quadruplets in Cairo and immediately gave each boy one of the four names of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, an Egyptian newspaper reported Sunday. The 27-year-old mother, Samia Ahmad Ibrahim, named her four boys using all four names of the Egyptian president: Barakat, Mohammad, Hosni, and Mubarak. All four boys, born Saturday, are reported to weigh 2.2 kilogrammes and to be in good health.

LONDON (AFP) — Princess Diana told her hairdressers that Dodi Fayed was "the one" for her, on the day she left Britain for the last time, according to extracts from a new book. "I think this is it! This is the one!" Diana told Tessa Rock, 31, and Natalie Symons, 27, the Sunday Mirror tabloid reported in its extract of the women's book, "Our Diana Diaries." Rock and Symons said the Princess of Wales was attracted to the soo of Harrod's owner Mohammad Fayed because of his exotic accent and the way he said: "Di-yana, you're so naughty!" Diana also had an affectionate brother-sister relationship with Prince Charles despite the bitter end of their marriage in August 1996, according to the stylists.

LONDON — Chubber's nipple and PVC bottom have been added to the traditional list of alcohol and drug perils surrounding the all-night dance raves favoured by youngsters. A conference on the health dangers posed by clubbing heard that the million or so British young people who go partying each weekend were just as likely to get hurt by violent bouncers and synthetic clothing than by drinks or designer drugs. PVC bottom — severe chafing to the skin caused by tight plastic clothing worn without underwear, and Chubber's nipple — caused by jumping up and down for eight hours in nylon or string vests — were listed on Saturday as some of the common conditions treated in British hospital triage.